



Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on: **Tuesday, 3 November 2020 at 6.00 pm**

Meeting to be held via: **Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting**

Public access to meeting via: <https://youtu.be/fS8nVz1Vlzo>

MEMBERSHIP

Chair	Councillor Lee Jeavons
Vice-Chair	Councillor Sarah Jane Cooper
	Councillor Gazanfer Ali
	Councillor Daniel Barker
	Councillor Rose Burley
	Councillor Brian Douglas-Maul
	Councillor Sat Johal
	Councillor Pard Kaur
	Councillor Farhana Mazhar
	Councillor Saiqa Nasreen
	Councillor Lorna Rattigan

NON-ELECTED VOTING MEMBERS

Lichfield Diocesan Representative	Vacancy
Archbishop of Birmingham's Representative	Mrs Philomena Mullins
Parent Governors	Mrs Heena Pathan
	Vacancy
	Vacancy

NON-ELECTED NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Primary Teacher Representative	Ms Sharon Guy
Secondary Teacher Representative	Ms Wendy Duffus

PORTFOLIO HOLDER For Education & Skills Councillor Chris Towe

AGENDA

1	Apologies To receive apologies for absence from Members of the Committee.	
2	Substitutions To receive notice of any substitutions for a Member of the Committee for the duration of the meeting.	
3	Declarations of interest and party whip To receive declarations of interest or the Party Whip from Members in respect of items on the agenda.	
4	Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) To agree that the public be excluded from the private session during consideration of the agenda items indicated for the reasons shown on the agenda (if applicable).	
5	Minutes To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee that was held on 10 September 2020.	Enclosed
<u>Scrutiny</u>		
6	Draft revenue budget 2020/21 – 2023/24 To receive and consider the draft revenue budget proposals that relate to the remit of this committee	Enclosed
7	Corporate financial performance – Quarter 2 (Period 5 - August 2020) Financial monitoring position for 2020/21 To receive and consider the budget monitoring position for Period 5 2020/21	Enclosed
8	Update on the Jane Lane Special School To receive and consider a report on the Jane Lane Special School	Enclosed
9	Update on Ofsted outcomes for schools and settings To receive and consider a report on the on the current position of Ofsted visits across the Borough and the current Ofsted outcomes for schools within Walsall.	Enclosed
10	Exclusions in schools To receive and consider a report summarising the exclusions data on children and young people in Walsall during the 2018/19 academic year.	Enclosed
<u>Overview</u>		
11	EHCP dashboard To receive for information, the dashboard on Education Health and Care Plans.	Enclosed
12	Work Programme 2020/21 To receive and consider the Committee's work programme for 2020/21.	Enclosed
13	Forward plans To receive the Cabinet and the Black Country EJC forward plans.	Enclosed
14	Date of next meeting To note that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 5 January 2021.	

The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

Specified pecuniary interests

The pecuniary interests that are specified for the purposes of Chapter 7 of Part 1 of the Localism Act 2011 are the interests specified in the second column of the following:

Subject	Prescribed description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	<p>Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by a member in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of a member.</p> <p>This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Regulations (Consolidation) Act 1992.</p>
Contracts	<p>Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority:</p> <p>(a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and</p> <p>(b) which has not been fully discharged.</p>
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	<p>Any tenancy where (to a member's knowledge):</p> <p>(a) the landlord is the relevant authority;</p> <p>(b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.</p>
Securities	<p>Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where:</p> <p>(a) that body (to a member's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and</p> <p>(b) either:</p> <p>(i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or</p> <p>(ii) if the share capital of that body is more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.</p>

Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)

Access to information: Exempt information

Part 1

Descriptions of exempt information: England

1. Information relating to any individual.
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
6. Information which reveals that the authority proposes:
 - (a) to give any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
 - (b) to make an order or direction under any enactment.
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.
8. Information being disclosed during a meeting of a Scrutiny and Performance Panel when considering flood risk management functions which:
 - (a) Constitutes a trades secret;
 - (b) Its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the risk management authority);
 - (c) It was obtained by a risk management authority from any other person and its disclosure to the public by the risk management authority would constitute a breach of confidence actionable by that other person.

EDUCATION OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 10 September 2020 at 4.00 pm

Virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams

Held in accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020; and conducted according to the Council's Standing Orders for Remote Meetings and those set out in the Council's Constitution.

Committee Members present:	Councillor Lee Jeavons (Chair) Councillor Sarah Jane Cooper (Vice-Chair) Councillor Daniel Barker Councillor Rose Burley Councillor Brian Douglas-Maul Councillor Sat Johal Councillor Pard Kaur Councillor Farhana Mazhar Councillor Saiqa Nasreen Councillor Lorna Rattigan
Portfolio Holders present:	Councillor Chris Towe – Education & Skills
Non-elected voting Members present:	Mrs Philomena Mullins – Archbishop of Birmingham's Representative
Non-elected non-voting Members present:	Ms Sharon Guy – Primary Teacher Representative Ms Wendy Duffus – Secondary Teacher Representative
Officers present:	Mrs Sharon Kelly, Director – Access & Inclusion Mr Andy Crabtree, SEND Improvement Lead Ms Trudy Pyatt, Head of Inclusion Mr Rob Thomas, Head of Access Ms Lorraine Thompson, Virtual School & Vulnerable Groups Lead Dr Paul Fantom, Democratic Services Officer

28/20 WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, and explaining the rules of procedure and legal context in which the meeting was being held. He also directed members of the public viewing the meeting to the papers, which could be found on the Council's Committee Management Information system (CMIS) webpage.

Members and officers confirmed that they could both see and hear the proceedings.

29/20 **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies for absence received.

30/20 **SUBSTITUTIONS**

There were no substitutions.

31/20 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND PARTY WHIP**

There were no declarations of interest or party whip for the duration of the meeting.

32/20 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 (AS AMENDED)**

There were no agenda items that required the exclusion of the public.

33/20 **MINUTES**

A copy of the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2020 was submitted [Annexed].

With reference to resolution (2) of Minute 20/20, it was noted that the further update report on the Jane Lane Special School would now be made to the meeting of the Committee to be held on 3 November 2020.

Resolved (unanimously by roll call):

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2020, a copy having previously been circulated, be approved and signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

34/20 **WORKING GROUP ON ACCESS AND INCLUSION**

The Committee received the report of the Working Group on Access and Inclusion [Annexed].

The report was introduced by the Chair of the Working Group, Councillor Barker, who noted that the Working Group had interviewed head teachers, parents and carers, and officers of the Local Authority. He emphasised that it had been found by the Working Group that there were important differences regarding perspectives and the types of help needed by individuals and organisations. Furthermore, that given its position as one of the most deprived local authorities in the country, many of the children who were at risk of exclusion from school often resided in areas that had suffered from economic deprivation.

The Portfolio Holder, Councillor Towe, stated that he was pleased to see the report and was happy to support it. He noted that the Local Authority had done a lot of work with

schools during the period of the Covid-19 pandemic and that this had helped to improve the working relationships, which would be beneficial to the schools and to the children.

There was further discussion by the Committee of the report, with Members supporting the recommendations and wishing them to be implemented at the earliest opportunity.

With reference to a question from Councillor Douglas-Maul regarding the work carried out by Hull Council, which had been found to reduce the number of school exclusions, it had been the intention for a visit to Hull Council to be arranged. Unfortunately, this had been deferred due to the Covid-19 pandemic but would be carried out when it was safe to do so.

Further to a question from Councillor Burley on EHCPs, Councillor Towe advised the Committee on the recent progress made and the resources committed. He anticipated that the backlog would be cleared by October, and that from November the Authority should be getting on track to reach the national target for the production of plans. He also advised Members of the improvements to the working relationship with schools, with for example, over 100 head teachers attending a briefing that had taken place earlier in the day. The Director – Access & Inclusion, Mrs Sharon Kelly, added that the improvements being made in respect of EHCPs were being closely monitored by the DfE and the NHS/CCG, and they were happy with the pace of progress. She also emphasised the importance of the work that had been carried out in conjunction with health partners, schools and the trade unions. Further information was provided by the Head of Inclusion, Ms Trudy Pyatt, who informed the Committee of the scrutiny undertaken through the Local Area Improvement Board and the regular meetings with DfE representatives. She noted that the Access & Inclusion team was working at full strength and had benefitted from additional capacity. Also of importance was the recognition that some children would experience social, emotional and mental health issues arising from the Covid-19 pandemic and addressing this would be a priority for the team so that any exclusions could be robustly challenged.

The Committee considered the preferred options for progressing the Working Group's report; namely, whether it should be considered by the Cabinet or by full Council. There was also discussion of how the implementation of the report's recommendations should be monitored, with it being suggested that an update be provided to the Committee on a termly basis and that this should be reflected in the Committee's work programme. In supporting the Working Group's report, Councillor Towe noted the importance of all of the recommendations being implemented in a timely and correct manner.

The Chair expressed his thanks to the Members and the officers of the Working Group, and to all of the people and partner organisations that had participated in the meetings, for their efforts in producing a report with recommendations that would be of benefit to all of the children of Walsall.

Resolved (unanimously by roll call):

1. That the report be presented to the Cabinet for its consideration of the findings and recommendations contained therein;

2. That update reports on the progress being made in implementing the Working Group's recommendations be made to the Committee on a termly basis and that the Committee's work programme be revised to reflect this.

35/20 UPDATE ON THE SEND LOCAL AREA IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME AND EHCPs

A report was submitted to the Committee concerning the SEND Local Area Improvement Programme, developed to address the areas of concern identified by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission in the SEND Local Area inspection in February 2019.

The SEND Improvement Lead, Mr Andy Crabtree, summarised the report, noting in particular the DfE monitoring visit on 5 August 2020, the progress made against the Written Statement of Action, and the progress being made in relation to EHCPs. The report contained a dashboard that had been developed to demonstrate compliance and evidence the clearing of the EHCP backlog. It was noted that the number of assessments had been reduced from 359 on 1 March 2020 to 253 on 24 August, and it was anticipated that the backlog would be cleared by 31 October 2020 so that the number of applications being processed would be reduced to approximately 130 cases.

Councillor Towe informed Members that he was pleased with the progress had been made and that resources had been found to achieve this. He added that the comments received from the DfE had indicated that it was also pleased with the progress being made, and he felt that the Authority would be in a good place by the time of the next inspection.

Further to a question from Councillor Burley regarding monitoring the progress being made, Councillor Towe indicated that he was happy to provide an update on progress to each future meeting. The Chair suggested that the dashboard presentation, as provided in the report, could be used for this purpose.

Resolved (unanimously by roll call):

1. That the report be noted;
2. That progress reports be made to future meetings by means of a dashboard presentation.

36/20 UPDATE ON THE ACCESS AND INCLUSION TEAM'S ACTIVITY WITH SCHOOLS DURING THE PANDEMIC

A report was submitted to the Committee concerning the delivery of support and the activities undertaken by the Access and Inclusion team during the Covid-19 pandemic, and especially since the re-opening of schools for core year groups from 1 June 2020.

In opening discussion of this item, Councillor Towe referred to the immense amount of activity and information that has been transmitted during this time to the Borough's schools. Seminars and briefings had been held, and he had attended every head teacher briefing and school governor seminar, from which he had received positive feedback on

the information that had been provided. He noted that over 1,000 laptops had been distributed in a timely manner to the disadvantaged young people in the Borough to help them to study whilst they were at home. Mrs Kelly also thanked the school leaders, colleagues and the trade unions for their positive response during this time.

The Committee received an overview from each of the Access and Inclusion Team Leaders, detailing the specific work being undertaken by each of their teams.

The Head of Access, Mr Rob Thomas, advised Members of the work that had been carried out with respect to achieving access into schools and monitoring attendance. This included improvement in the sharing of information, the carrying out of home visits in relation to vulnerable children and children missing education, and the consideration of school admission appeals via virtual hearings.

The Head of Inclusion, Ms Trudy Pyatt, highlighted the improved engagement via weekly head teacher and principal virtual meetings. Preparation had commenced on the preparation needed for the Ofsted initial discussion visits scheduled for the autumn term. Work was also being undertaken in terms of the implications for schools of changes to children's social and mental health and their behaviours because of the Covid-19 pandemic. There had been liaison with colleagues in Early Help and with Public Health England, to ensure that the support given to schools during this period had been robust. With reference to the school improvement offer, and because it had been recognised nationally that the attainment gap for disadvantaged children was widening, a project with the Educational Endowment Foundation (EEF) was being carried forward. There had been a range of summer activities for vulnerable learners during the summer break.

The Virtual School & Vulnerable Groups Lead, Ms Lorraine Thompson, provided an overview of the Virtual School and the work being undertaken during the Covid-19 pandemic. This included the allocation of key workers and resources, including over 2,000 devices such as lap top computers that were provided to disadvantaged children and vulnerable young people and care leavers in the Borough.

The Chair thanked all of the school and Local Authority staff who had worked to ensure that children continued to be educated and cared for. He noted the responsibilities for the safeguarding of children, with schools being the first point of contact for disclosures that needed to be followed up, and that this had continued to be achieved during this time.

Councillor Barker supported this view and commended the staff in schools for all of the arrangements that had been during the Covid-19 pandemic. He also referred to the information being provided by schools and requested that the Committee be provided with data on children missing education, including Covid-related absences, and the number of children receiving elective home education in Walsall.

The appreciation of the Members of the Committee and of the Portfolio Holder, Councillor Towe, was expressed to all the staff in the schools and the Local Authority education service for dealing with the frequently changing challenges during the last six months.

Resolved (unanimously by roll call):

1. That the report be noted;

2. That the information on the children missing education, including Covid-relating absences, and those children receiving elective home education be circulated to Members of the Committee.

37/20 WORK PROGRAMME 2020/21

Members received and considered the Committee's Work Programme [Annexed].

Resolved (unanimously by roll call):

That subject to the inclusion of the revisions referred to in Minutes 34/20 and 35/20, the Committee's Work Programme be approved.

38/20 FORWARD PLANS

Members received and considered the Forward Plans of the Council and the Black Country Executive Joint Committee [Annexed].

Resolved (unanimously by roll call):

That the Forward Plans be noted.

39/20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 3 November 2020 at 6.00 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 5.38 pm.

Chair.....

Date.....

3 November 2020

Draft revenue budget 2020/21 – 2023/24

Ward(s) All

Portfolios: Councillor Chris Towe – Education and Skills

Executive Summary:

The draft revenue budget, as reported to Cabinet on 28 October 2020, includes the latest medium term financial outlook for the four-year period from 2020/21 to 2023/24. It provides an updated in year position, medium term financial outlook and first draft revenue budget for 2021/22 to 2023/24, including savings proposals for consultation, and sets out the process and timescales for setting a legally balanced budget for 2021/22.

Our MTFO has been updated for all known pressures, including assumptions around the ongoing impact of Covid-19, resulting in an adjusted financial gap of £33.66m in 2021/22. The Council is legally obliged to set a one year balanced budget (2021/22), however a medium term approach is beneficial to allow for sound financial planning and to support future financial stability. Whilst there is, a significant number of savings proposals for 2021/22 and 2022/23, further options are being identified to allow for a balanced budget for 2021/22. The remaining gap reported to Cabinet on 28 October 2020 report, subject to all the policy and operational proposals within the report going on to be included in the final budget in February 2021, is £12.32m for 2021/22. A further round of proposals will therefore be presented to Cabinet on 9 December 2020.

A one year Spending Round for 2021/22 is expected later this year followed by a one-year provisional local government settlement for 2021/22 around December 2020. This makes planning for future years very difficult, as funding is extremely uncertain for 2021/22 and beyond. Our current funding and cost assumptions are set out in the report to Cabinet on 28 October 2020, however they are subject to change. It should also be noted that the Chancellor cancelled the Autumn budget for 2020, which also suggests they are focusing on shorter term planning at this time. Any variation to current predictions will be addressed in the next available report to Cabinet following receipt.

This report provides an extract of the Proud draft savings proposals and Investments / Cost Pressures 2021/22 – 2023/24 by Proud Outcomes that fall within the remit of the Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

Feedback from this Committee on the draft proposals will be reported back to Cabinet on 9 December 2020. This will inform the final draft budget to be considered by Cabinet on 10 February 2021 to be recommended to Council on 25 February 2021. Any changes to Cabinet's December draft revenue budget proposals as a result of equality impact assessments and consultation will be fed into the final budget report.

Reason for scrutiny:

To enable consultation of the draft budget proposals for services within the remit of this Committee. A formal response for policy options is required to be reported back to Cabinet on 9 December 2020. Comments on the operational proposals are also welcomed but not essential, as they are able to be delivered under delegations.

Recommendations:

That:

1. The Committee are recommended to consider the draft revenue budget proposals attached that relate to the remit of this committee and formally report to Cabinet on the policy proposals shown in **Appendix 1**.
2. The Committee are asked to note that consultation will be undertaken on all new 2021/22 policy proposals shown in **Appendix 1**, and that feedback will be presented to Cabinet on 9 December 2020.
3. Note that further savings proposals will be presented to Cabinet on 9 December 2020 in order for a balanced budget to be delivered by February 2021. These will be reported to a future meeting of this scrutiny committee for consultation.

Background papers:

Various financial working papers.

Resource and legal considerations:

Cabinet, on 28 October 2020, were presented with a list of draft Proud revenue savings proposals for consultation and a list of growth items by Proud outcomes.

The full Cabinet report can be accessed at the following link:

[Cabinet 28.10.2020 - Draft Revenue Budget 2020/21 – 2023/24](#)

Savings proposals

The Walsall Proud Programme (WPP) is the Council's transformation programme to transform the way the Council works; Achieve Improved Outcomes and Customer Experience; Improve Staff Satisfaction and Engagement; and Improve Service Efficiency and Performance. WPP is expected to deliver the required savings for 2021/22 and beyond – the extent of savings being dependent on the pace of change and the level of ambition.

Throughout the Covid-19 period, work continued on the Programme where possible. It was also possible to identify examples of changes in working practices having taken place in response to Covid-19, which were in line with the aspirations of the Proud Programme including introducing new ways of working, making the best use of technology, challenging existing processes and procedures, working in partnership and demonstrating the best of what our teams can achieve.

Gradually over the last 2 months, activity within the Programme has restarted. This includes preparing for employee consultations; completing outstanding design work within the Enabling Support Services; continuing with procurement activities within the Enabling Technology work stream; commencing work on the Council's Estate Strategy and providing Connected Working tools and techniques to support teams. In parallel and complementary to the Resilient Communities Service Transformation Plan (STP), as discussed below, public consultation has begun on the Resilient Communities proposals, in conjunction with the residents survey, and engagement activities have commenced with partners.

As part of the RESET process, the Council identified an opportunity to bring together the work of the Proud Programme and the work taking place in each directorate in response to Covid-19 and RESET. As part of the Outcomes, Service Levels and Delivery Models work stream, the Proud Programme has worked with services to establish a desired direction of travel for service delivery. Drawing on good practice and applying Walsall context, a number of common themes have been identified which will support the future delivery of Council services:

- Using effective marketing and communications to change behaviour.
- Using local assets and empowering communities to deliver outcomes.
- Partnering in an effective way where a Council-only response is not enough.
- Providing one, clear, unified offer for Council-only delivered services.

These themes will help transformation planning for the Council as a whole, in order to best deliver the Corporate Plan priorities and outcomes. In line with this, the Proud Programme has been supporting Directors to develop three-year Service Transformation Plans (STPs) to deliver both financial and non-financial benefits.

The outcome of the Proud STP process has identified £37.63m of potential financial benefits which are classified into two categories:

1. Policy Proposals - which require an Executive decision to proceed, and which will be referred for public consultation and equality impact assessment prior to any decision being made to include these in Cabinet's final budget proposals. These total £1.6m over the two years. There are no policy proposals relating to the remit of this committee.
2. Operational Proposals – savings which officers have delegations to implement; examples include restructures, back office savings and operational efficiencies. These total £36m over the two years. Operational proposals relating to the remit of this committee are shown at **Appendix 1**, and total c£1m over the two years.

Investment / cost pressures

Following a review of the MTFO / impact of Covid-19 a number of investment / cost pressures have been identified and included in the draft budget proposals totalling c£47.5m over the period 2021/22 to 2023/24. Those relating to the remit of this Committee are shown at **Appendix 2** and total £2.56m over 3 years.

Some of the savings proposals also require investment to support delivery. These total £3.17m and will only proceed if the saving proposals are included within Cabinet's final budget report in February, once consultation and equality impact assessment on proposals has concluded.

Contact Officers:

Vicky Buckley – Interim Director of Finance, Corporate Performance Management and Corporate Landlord, ☎ 07983 604698, ✉ Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk

Summary of Operational Proposals by Outcome 2021/22 – 2022/23
Relating to the remit of this Committee

Portfolio	Ref No	Detail of Operational Proposals by Outcome	2021/22 £	2022/23 £	Total £
Outcome - Children thrive emotionally, physically, mentally and feel they are achieving their potential					
Education & Skills	OP14	Customer Access Management System (CAMS)	(9,063)	0	(9,063)
	OP15	Review of structure - access and achievement	(128,742)	0	(128,742)
	OP16	Re-negotiation and joint procurement of moderation and school improvement contract	(40,000)	0	(40,000)
	OP17	Reduction in use of agency and temporary staff	0	(120,000)	(120,000)
	OP18	Implementation of education health and care plan hub	(2,474)	0	(2,474)
Total Outcome - Children thrive emotionally, physically, mentally and feel they are achieving their potential			(180,279)	(120,000)	(300,279)
Outcome - Education, training and skills enable people to fulfil their personal development					
Education & Skills	OP24	Seek contribution from Walsall CCG towards the provision of a Special Education Needs and/or Disability Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS)	(43,000)	0	(43,000)
	OP25	Increase traded services to schools	(20,000)	(55,000)	(75,000)
	OP26	High needs funding review and provide specialist support to children with additional needs via use of DSG grant	(250,000)	(250,000)	(500,000)
	OP27	Review of structure and functions and provide in-house support to 2, 3 and 4 year olds	(50,000)	0	(50,000)
	OP28	Review and streamline the provision of specialist inclusion services and support	0	(41,283)	(41,283)
Total Outcome - Education, training and skills enable people to fulfil their personal development			(363,000)	(346,283)	(709,283)
Total Operational Proposals relating to the remit of this Committee			(543,279)	(466,283)	(1,009,562)

Summary of Investments / Cost Pressures 2021/22 – 2023/24 included within the MTFO by Outcome relating to the remit of this Committee

Portfolio	Ref No	Details of Growth by outcome	2021/22 £	2022/23 £	2023/24 £
Children thrive emotionally, physically, mentally and feel they are achieving their potential					
Education & Skills	17	Home to school transport	1,422,000	648,000	515,000
	18	Educational psychologists	(100,000)	0	0
	19	Removal of revenue target for attendance fines	77,000	0	0
Total Children thrive emotionally, physically, mentally and feel they are achieving their potential			1,399,000	648,000	515,000
Total Growth relating to the remit of this Committee			1,399,000	648,000	515,000

3 November 2020

Corporate financial performance – Quarter 2 (period 5 – August 2020): Financial monitoring position for 2020/21

Ward(s) All

Portfolio: Councillor Chris Towe – Education and Skills**1. Aim**

To provide the budget monitoring position for Period 5 2020/21. The Chair requested that this item be considered by the Committee.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the revenue and capital forecast for the financial year end 2020/21 for the services under the remit of the committee
- 2.2 To note the mitigating actions being taken to address the overspend.

3. Report detail – know

- 3.1 The current net revenue forecast position, after the net use of reserves, would be an overspend of **£0.543m**, which results from pressures within Home to School transport. After mitigating actions of (£0.543m) the forecast position is net nil.
- 3.2 Regular reports are prepared during 2020/21 for both Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee. For services under the remit of this Committee, the forecast revenue position is net nil as at Period 5 (August 2020). For completeness, the forecast revenue overspend for services under the remit of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee is net nil. This gives a total net nil position for Children's Services directorate as at 31 August 2020.
- 3.3 Reasons for the current position are shown in Table 1 below:

Table 1- Explanations of overspend	
	£m
Home to school transport pressure, £0.665m primarily resulting from an increase in out of borough demand, (£0.122m) saving on route costs resulting from a reduction in the number of children currently being transported due to COVID-19. The current FYE cost of current children transported is £3.684m, this position utilises all of the £1.000m investment.	0.543
Use of central action plan to mitigate overspends detailed above	(0.543)
Total	0.000

3.4 The forecast revenue position by service is shown in Table 2 below:

Table 2- Forecast Revenue Outturn 2020/21					
Service	Annual Budget £m	Year End Forecast £m	Planned Use of Reserves £m	Action Plan £m	Variance after Reserves & Action Plan £m
Access & Inclusion	3.207	4.846	(1.639)	0.000	0.000
Home to School Transport	3.584	4.127	0.000	(0.543)	0.000
Children's Services Sub Total	6.791	8.974	(1.639)	(0.543)	0.000
Education funding - accountable body	(0.532)	0.295	(0.827)	0.000	0.000
Total Children's Services	6.260	9.269	(2.466)	(0.543)	0.000

3.5 Reserves

The total allocated reserves in 2020/21 are £4.992m, of which £2.466m (49.4%) has been used or committed to date.

Table 3 below details the current net use of reverses included within the forecast.

Table 3 - Summary of use of reserves and transfer to reserves				
Reserve Details	Allocated reserve	Use of reserve	Transfer to reserve	Balance of reserve
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Education funding-accountable body	3.089	(0.827)	0.000	2.262
Access & Inclusion	1.903	(1.639)	0.000	0.264
Total Reserves	4.992	(2.466)	0.000	2.526

3.6 Risks

For the services under the remit of the Committee, there are a number of risks totalling **£0.352m**, which have not been included within the above forecast. At this stage the risks are not certainties and as such are not included in the monitoring as an under or overspend. High risks of **£0.223m** are included in the corporate monitoring report to CMT. If the risks become certainties, they will need to be included in the forecast position as overspends unless alternative action can be identified to mitigate these costs. A summary of the risk assessment is table 4 below.

Risk	Value (£m)	Ongoing	One Off	Actions to manage risk
High	0.223	0.000	0.223	Childrens Services continue to review possible in year mitigations if this were to materialise. Home to school transport budget is under review as part of Council's MTFO plan
Medium	0.000	0.000	0.000	
Low	0.129	0.040	0.089	
Total	0.352	0.040	0.312	

The main high risks (Red risks) that could negatively impact the current forecast position if they occur are:

Service	Reason / explanation of risk	£m
Home to School Transport	Additional Home to School transport costs for all children to return to school in COVID-19 safe transport in September. This is pending review while the service is drawing up various options on all children returning to school in September	0.223
	Total High Risks	0.223

3.7 Capital Summary

The total capital programme related to this portfolio is £40.939m. The current forecast position is projected to £13.991m. The carry forward on Basic Need of £26.640m is committed to future school expansion schemes. The carry forward on Capital Maintenance of £1.297m will be used to further improve the school estate in Walsall. A summary is detailed in the table below:

Table 6- Forecast Capital Outturn 2020/21					
Service	Annual Budget	Actual Year to Date	Forecast	Year End Variance	Proposed carry forward to 2021/22
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Council Funded					
School Estate Condition Survey	0.250	0.040	0.250	0.000	0.000
School Temporary Classrooms	0.250	0.016	0.250	0.000	0.000
2 Year Old Capital Funding - DSG RCCO	0.263	0.004	0.263	0.000	0.000
PRU – DSG RCCO	0.454	0.000	0.454	0.000	0.000
SENDI – DSG RCCO	0.806	0.000	0.806	0.000	0.000
SUB-TOTAL	2.023	0.060	2.023	0.000	0.000
Externally Funded					
Devolved Formula Capital	2.159	0.104	2.159	0.000	0.000
Capital Maintenance*	3.491	1.134	2.194	(1.297)	(1.297)
Basic Need**	30.839	0.700	4.198	(26.640)	(26.640)
Universal Infant Free School Meals	0.010	0.000	0.010	0.000	0.000
Academies – Darlaston	0.346	0.000	0.346	0.000	0.000
Healthy Pupil Capital Fund	0.064	0.016	0.064	0.000	0.000
Special Provision Fund	1.626	0.000	1.626	0.000	0.000
Section 106	0.381	0.000	0.381	0.000	0.000
SUB-TOTAL	38.916	1.953	11.969	(27.937)	(27.937)
TOTAL - EDUCATION	40.939	2.014	13.991	(27.937)	(27.937)

* Additional Capital Maintenance funding was announced by the Department for Education in August 2020. The revised budget of £4.227m will be reflected in future reports, bringing the total budget of the portfolio to £41.675m. Children's Services and Integrated Facilities Management have a 5-year rolling programme for projects to be funded from the Capital Maintenance grant. Therefore, a request will be made to carry the remaining funds forward to next financial year.

** Regarding further Basic Needs allocations, it should be noted that the DfE have confirmed they will not be able to announce the allocations for places needed beyond September 2022 due to lack of clarity around school capital budgets from Central Government. Historically, the DfE has tried to announce allocations 3.5 years ahead of when places are needed in order to allow local authorities sufficient time to plan ahead and complete works in time for when additional pupil places are required.

Details of proposed capital carry forwards are detailed in the table below:

Table 7 - Proposed Capital Carry Forwards to 2021/22		
Capital Schemes	Amount to be c/f (£m)	Comments
Basic Need	26.640	Carry forward is committed to future Basic Need expansion schemes.
Capital Maintenance	1.297	Carry forward will be used to further improve the School Estate in Walsall.

3.8 Capital risks

The total risk for the service is currently £3.117m.

Table 8 – Capital Risks 20/21				
Risk	Value (£m)	Ongoing (£m)	One Off (£m)	Actions to manage risk
Medium	0.500	0.000	0.500	Potential increase in school expansion costs. For previous school expansion schemes, final costs have been higher than previously expected.
Medium	1.626	0.000	1.626	Special Provision Fund expenditure is dependent on the review of the SEN Strategy. If eligible schemes are not identified and money spent by 31 March 2021, then this grant funding may need to be paid back.
Low	0.992	0.000	0.992	Goldsmith Academy 2 year old places. Legal Agreement yet to be drawn up so that funding can be released to the Academy Trust.
TOTAL	3.117	0.000	3.117	

4. Financial information

- 4.1 The financial implications are as set out in the main body of this report. The Council has a statutory responsibility to set a balanced budget and to ensure it has an adequate level of reserves. The council will take a medium term policy led approach to all decisions on resource allocation.

5. Reducing Inequalities

- 5.1 Services consider and respond to equality issues in setting budgets and delivering services. Irrespective of budgetary pressures, the Council must fulfil equal opportunities obligations

6. Decide

- 6.1 To approve the recommendations as set out in this report.

7. Respond

- 7.1 The Executive Director for Children's Services, with finance in support, will be working with Directors and Heads of service to review the forecast, to continue to implement mitigating actions for any further forecast overspends and to consider these financial implications in line with the Council's budget setting process.

8. Review

- 8.1 Regular monitoring reports are presented to Cabinet to inform them of the impact of Covid-19 and the financial forecast for 2020/21, including an update on risks and impact on the budget for 2021/22 and beyond.

Background papers: Various financial working papers

Contact Officers:

Ross Hutchinson, Interim Head of Finance

☎ 07415 308513, ✉ ross.hutchinson@walsall.gov.uk

Tanya Collier, Lead Accountant – Children's Services

✉ tanya.collier@walsall.gov.uk

Sally Rowe

Executive Director, Children's Services

3 November 2020

Update on the Jane Lane Special School

Ward(s): All

Portfolios: Councillor Chris Towe – Education & Skills

1. Aim

Update on the Jane Lane Special School, currently in Special Measures.

2. Recommendations

Agree to continue with a high level of support and challenge to the school leadership and governance with regard to standards and improvement and financial management.

3. Report detail – know

- 3.1 The Jane Lane School is one of seven schools in Walsall that provide special education for children and young people with complex needs. Ofsted conducted a full inspection of the School on 27 and 28 November 2018. The School was deemed inadequate and placed into Special Measures.
- 3.2 Since the Ofsted judgement, the School has been subject to two Her Majesty's Inspectorate (HMI) monitoring visits. Both visits confirmed that the interim leadership, Interim Executive Board (IEB) and the Local Authority were taking effective action to remove the School from Special Measures. Due to the current Covid 19 pandemic, all section 8 (one day monitoring inspections which either take place for schools in a category or for schools where they are judged to be good or better) and section 5 (two day inspections designed to reassess the category of a schools or due to safeguarding concerns) have been suspended until January 2021. Ofsted will be conducting interim visits under section 8 of the inspection framework. These are visits will not result in a change to Ofsted grading and will be non-judgmental. As a school in Special Measures, Jane Lane will be subject to an interim visit.
- 3.3 The School continues to face many on-going problems, which will take some time to address. Staffing structures at the School are being refined and there are some changes to the support staff. The School continues to be led by an acting interim head teacher from a local school, an acting assistant head teacher, an acting designated safeguarding lead and an acting behaviour mentor. The Chair of the IEB and other members of the Board are effectively challenging and holding the School to account for all matters and particularly around staffing and finance.

- 3.4 The last HMI report highlights that leaders have a clear rationale for the curriculum and that the balanced curriculum prepares pupils well for the next stage in their education. During the initial lockdown, the curriculum was delivered, where possible via remote learning and specific learning packs. Since the return of all pupils in September, the School has returned, where possible to the full delivery of the curriculum in secure class teaching/ group bubbles.
- 3.5 The quality of teaching and learning shows signs of improvement. Training and delivery of the areas identified in the last HMI monitoring inspection report have been prioritised and will now be able to be delivered after the initial lock down period. The IEB will be robustly monitoring the delivery of phonics, as there were identified inconsistencies to the quality of delivery. The assessment system has been redefined to ensure that the information is reliable and valid and this will be closely monitored to ensure internal tracking demonstrates pupil progress and any interventions where appropriate.
- 3.6 While there are signs of improvement in the quality of teaching and learning, the rate of improvement is being hindered by the instability in staffing. Leaders have now appointed permanent staff in key positions. Teacher performance management will closely monitor the standard and effectiveness of delivery of quality teaching and learning throughout the coming academic year.
- 3.7 Safeguarding is a strength of the School. Leaders are embedding a culture of safeguarding. Training for staff considers the vulnerability of the pupils at the school, this was particularly essential during the lock down period and subsequently when challenging parents about any absenteeism following the full opening of the School to all pupils as of September 2020. Links with external agencies are effective. The School is calm and orderly. Pupils say that they feel safe and they have someone they trust to talk with. Medical plans and intimate care plans for pupils who need them are in place. Additional training has been given to staff when needed.
- 3.8 Leaders have a clear understanding of the School's strengths and weaknesses. The IEB continues to offer leaders effective support and increasingly robust challenge in securing school improvement. Governors work particularly well and collaboratively with leaders. There is a Direct Academy Order (DAO) in regards to the school and the LA and the interim leadership and IEB are working with the identified sponsor (Forward Trust) and the DfE in the transfer to academy status.
- 3.9 Parents and carers are becoming increasingly involved in the life of the School. Representatives from the parents' forum regularly meet with the deputy head teacher and there is a newly formed parent teacher association.

4. ***Financial information***

- 4.1 The work being undertaken to improve the School has caused financial pressure on its delegated budget. The Authority has provided additional resource to support the school to understand the impact of this over the next three years and identify options to manage this, with a licenced deficit agreement now in place with the School which aims to bring the School's financial position back in to balance within this period (as required by schools financial regulations).

- 4.2 The financial position for the school will continue to be regularly monitored over this period to ensure it is in line with the projection approved within the Licenced Deficit agreement, and additional options will need to be identified by the school if this monitoring highlights any variances

Reducing Inequalities

N/A

5. Decide

As a local authority, we will be having monthly 'Team Around the School' (TAS) meetings (see appendix 1) to monitor the improvements against the identified areas for improvement within the latest monitoring report. The school improvement associate will continue to work alongside the interim senior leaders at the School to ensure the robust and measureable action plans have agreed milestones and that the leadership can evidence progress against the plan. There will be a key focus on staffing, teaching and learning standards and finance within the monitoring leading up to the next monitoring visit.

To continue with the high level of support and challenge.

6. Respond

N/A

7. Review

The Jane Lane School is subject to inspection and is a priority school in the Schools Causing Concern (SCC) protocol

Background papers

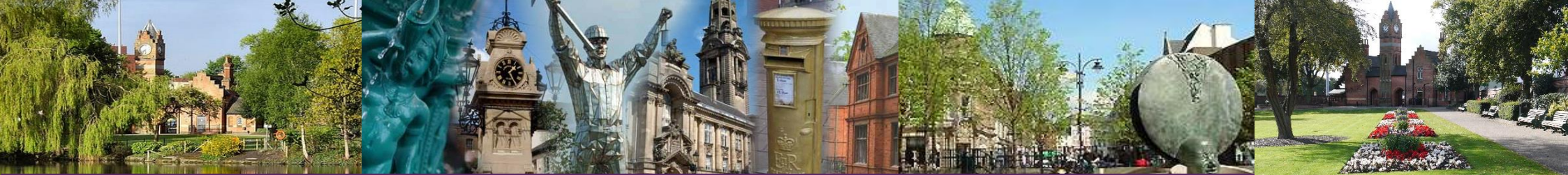
Author

Trudy Pyatt

Interim Head of Inclusion

☎ 655616

✉ trudy.pyatt@walsall.gov.uk



Walsall Council

PROUD OF OUR PAST OUR PRESENT AND FOR OUR FUTURE

Team Around the School

RAPID RECOVERY PLAN
WALSALL COUNCIL

18-19

Rationale:

Walsall Council's ambition is that all their schools and academies are judged as Good or better by Ofsted. As part of this ambition some schools will require intensive support and challenge for a number of reasons i.e. prior to an Ofsted inspection where concerns are raised about a decline in standards, following an Ofsted inspection where a decline in standards has resulted in a SM or RI to RI judgement or where there are significant leadership and management concerns in schools judged RI, Good or Outstanding.

Process:

When setting up intensive support and challenge programme with an individual school or schools it is essential to establish clear structures and systems that need to be in place. As such, a Team Around the School (TAS) will be formed to support and challenge an identified school's rapid improvement.

This group will comprise of the relevant Local Authority service area leads and the senior leadership and/or where appropriate the Chair of governors of the identified school. Schools will be at many different starting points and non-negotiables are introduced as a common baseline and to ensure complete sign up to the process.

The TAS members will include:

- A designated Chair from the Local Authority
- Head teacher and senior leaders of the school
- Chair or nominated governor of the school (where appropriate)
- Representative from the Teaching School Alliance or a Good/Outstanding school allocated to provide the leadership support (where appropriate)
- Local Authority service area leads – School Improvement, Governor Support, Safeguarding, SEND, Education Psychology, Attendance, HR, Finance, Admissions, Alternative Provision, Post 16, EYFS, Early Help etc.

The focus of the TAS process is to measure the impact of the Local Authority in their support and challenge of leadership and management in raising standards within their school. The process is time sensitive and requires capacity and commitment from all parties involved.

The Local Authority needs to:

- Understand the need to ensure that the school has the appropriate support as well as challenge
- Commission (including secondment and redirection of internal support from other relevant LA service areas) and additional resources and capacity to support the school
- Determine the financial resource to support the school and hold it to account, ensuring best value for money

- Review the process regularly to ensure that improvement is rapid, effective and sustainable

The school needs to:

- Understand the need for the challenge and support
- Understand that support can be derived from challenge
- Commit to and participate in the process
- Understand that the school drives the improvement

Step 1:

The TAS will meet at the identified school to formulate the Rapid Recovery Plan. The meeting will:

- Evaluate the school's performance in the Ofsted framework areas and identify improvement areas
- Agree roles and responsibilities from the LA service areas and from the school for the target areas
- Identify the appropriate resources and specify the time frames for all identified actions for the Local Authority and school to complete
- Be based around round table professional discussion

The Chairperson will act as:

- As an independent consultant

The Chairperson will agree the specific actions with the TAS. The actions should be:

- Clear and concise
- As discussed in the meeting
- Measurable
- Time sensitive

The RRP should:

- Be evaluative not descriptive
- Reference the standard Ofsted terms

Step 2:

The identified school is responsible for its own Statement of Action (SoA) if it is an Inadequate school/ Special Measures school. The SoA will be regularly reviewed via the TAS meetings. Where a school is not deemed Inadequate/Special Measures, a robust school improvement plan is expected to be in place and will also be subject to review by the TAS.

Where a specific school has been identified as providing direct support to the identified school, they have shared accountability with the leaders of the school to:

- Ensure that the SoA or school improvement plan, is accurate and regularly updated
- The nature/type of the support in addressing the actions
- Dates and times of visits

The identified school will drive and be responsible for the SoA or school improvement plan. The supporting school may be commissioned directly by the Local authority and have a financial agreement for the commissioned support. The identified school may incur the full cost of any school-to-school support and this must be agreed and recorded at the first TAS meeting.

Step 3:

During the TAS process, the LA will conduct appropriate quality assurance in two specific areas School Improvement and Safeguarding although reviews of other LA areas may be deemed necessary, such as Governance.

The School improvement and Safeguarding reviews and subsequent Progress and Impact Visits will be in line with the LA's Schools Causing Concern Protocol and will:

- Be a one or two day review
- Provide a detailed School Visit Record (SVR) identifying strengths, development areas, next steps and any recommendations for intervention.

Ahead of the review:

- The Head teacher or designated senior leader will be asked to email a copy of the school's usual timetable to the lead reviewer.
- From this the lead reviewer will plan the provisional schedule of activities for the day, many of which will be joint activities led by members of the school leadership team.
- A copy of the provisional schedule will then be emailed to the Head teacher but may be subject to change on the day.

During the review, reference will be made to the school's own evaluation of impact and corroborated through the joint monitoring activities.

Activities for the review include:

- Initial discussion about SoA or school improvement plan with HT (& Chair of Governors)
- Discussion with leaders re the internal data sets
- Progress in books monitoring and may include some learning walks

- Discussion with staff and pupils

Step 4:

A meeting of the TAS will be held. This meeting led by the Chair will require the Local authority service leads and the identified school to:

- Demonstrate the progress they have made against the agreed actions in the RRP

At this meeting the findings of any reviews, school visits, HMI monitoring visits etc. should be discussed to inform the RRP

Step 5:

The TAS process and paperwork will be subject to a quality assurance process and support and challenge by the Director for Children's Services at Walsall Council.

Appendix 1

Team Around the School – Record of Meeting		
Section A: Key Information		
Name of School:		
Head Teacher:	Chair of TAS:	
Date of TAS:	Meeting Number:	
Supporting School (where applicable):		
Context <i>(Key background information)</i>		
Present:		
Apologies:		
Section B: Risk Assessment and Key Factors Towards Securing Good		
What is the risk of the school <i>not being judged as Taking Effective Action (TEA) or GOOD (where appropriate)</i> at the next monitoring visit or inspection?		
HIGH /MEDIUM /LOW (please identify)		
What are the key factors preventing this? What are the actions towards achieving good?	By whom?	By when?
1.		

2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
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15.		

Appendix 2

TAS - Rapid Recovery Plan				
School name:				
Head teacher:				
Chair of TAS:				
PRIORITY 1:				
SCHOOL/LA actions	Success Criteria	Resources	Time Frame	Lead
PRIORITY 2:				
SCHOOL/LA actions	Success Criteria	Resources	Time Frame	Lead
PRIORITY 3:				
SCHOOL/LA actions	Success Criteria	Resources	Time Frame	Lead
PRIORITY 4:				
SCHOOL/LA actions	Success Criteria	Resources	Time Frame	Lead

KEY QUESTIONS:

Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ What do we want to achieve in the long term?▪ What do we want to achieve before the quality assurance review/ monitoring visit/inspection?
LA actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ What tasks do we have to do to achieve success?
Success Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ What will it look like when we get there?▪ What is our intended impact?
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ What interventions/strategies do we need to put in place?▪ Do we need to re-align our human and physical resources?▪ Do we need to invest in this area?▪ How much time will this take?▪ Are there additional training and development needs for us to consider and source?
Time Frame	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ How do we collate the evidence together and triangulate it to check that we are achieving/ having the impact we set out to have?▪ Are any barriers to achieving the required impact/ standards addressed rigorously and robustly?
Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Who is responsible /accountable for those actions?▪ How do we make sure we are doing what we said we would?▪ Who is holding us to account?

3 November 2020

Update on Ofsted outcomes for schools and settings

Ward(s): All

Portfolios: Councillor Chris Towe – Education & Skills

1. Aim

To update the Committee on the current position of Ofsted visits across the Borough and the current Ofsted outcomes for schools within Walsall.

2. Recommendations

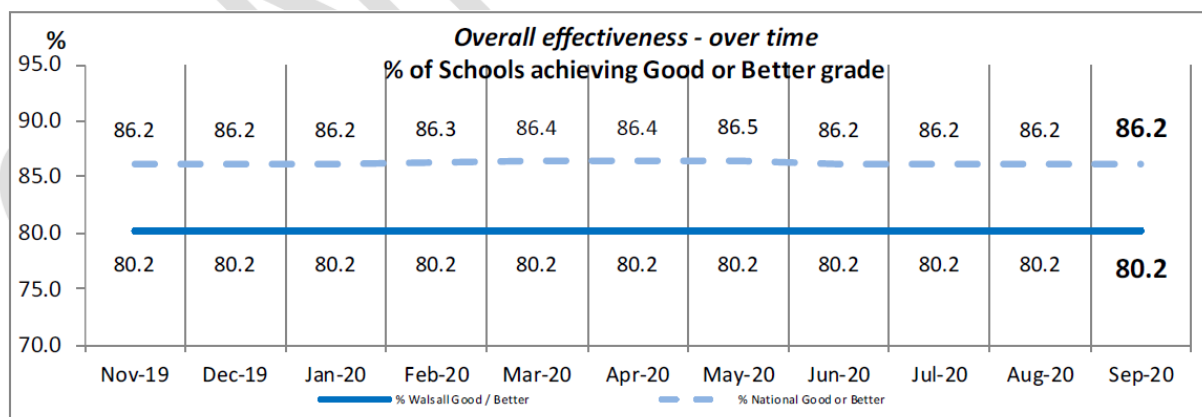
That the Committee considers the contents of this report and decides whether there should be further information or action.

3. Report detail – know

- 3.1 From September 2019, Ofsted released a new inspection framework upon which schools and settings would be judged. This new framework, called the Education Inspection Framework (EIF), concentrates on how schools teach the curriculum, this included ‘deep dives’ into focused subject areas, the cultural capital and ensuring that the curriculum is relevant and inclusive of all learners. There is a key focus on the pupil experiences and ‘what it is like to be a child educated in this setting’ rather than the previous Ofsted frameworks, which were perceived to be more data driven.
- 3.2 Her Majesty’s Inspectors (HMI) were invited to Walsall by the Local Authority to present the new framework to head teachers and senior leaders prior to its implementation. These sessions were very well attended and gave our school leaders insight as to ‘what and how’ inspections and judgments would be made by Ofsted in the future.
- 3.3 In March 2020 Amanda Spielman, Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector, said: I’m grateful for the Secretary of State’s permission to suspend routine inspections. It’s clearly the right thing to do when teachers and social workers are under pressure as a result of the coronavirus outbreak. We all need to support them in their work. We will monitor what’s happening across education and social care and we will reserve the right to inspect where we believe the safety of children could be at risk, or we have other serious concerns. We will also continue to register and regulate social care providers, childminders and nurseries, so that these vital services can continue to support children and their families.
- 3.4 From 1 September until March 2020, when Ofsted visits were suspended due to Covid, there were a total of 16 school Ofsted inspections in schools in Walsall. There are two types of inspections, section 8 (one day monitoring inspections

which either take place for schools in a category or for schools where they are judged to be good or better) and section 5 (two day inspections designed to reassess the category of a schools or due to safeguarding concerns). Of these, 16 of the sections 5 and 8 inspections, **93.4%** (15 out 16 inspections) were judged to be good or outstanding under the new framework. Feedback from head teachers in our schools was very positive about the support the Local Authority had provided in helping prepare and support schools for the transition in Ofsted inspection frameworks.

3.5 The table below shows the overall percentage of schools and settings in Walsall that are judged to be good or better compared to the national average.



% Good or Better	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20
National	86.2	86.2	86.2	86.3	86.4	86.4	86.5	86.2	86.2	86.2	86.2
Walsall	80.2	80.2	80.2	80.2	80.2	80.2	80.2	80.2	80.2	80.2	80.2
Gap	-6.0	-6.0	-6.0	-6.1	-6.2	-6.2	-6.3	-6.0	-6.0	-6.0	-6.0

3.6 An analysis of the overall Ofsted Judgements below shows the percentage of good or better by school type.

School Type	Good or Outstanding %
LA Maintained	86.9%
Academy Converters	73.7%
Academy Sponsor Led	55.6%
All Schools	80.2%

3.7 Ofsted's routine inspections will remain suspended for the autumn term, with a plan to resume in January 2021. In this autumn term, Ofsted will be carrying out 'visits' to schools and colleges, not inspections. The visits will look at how schools and colleges are getting pupils back up to speed after so long at home. They will help them through collaborative conversations, without passing judgement. The visits will not be graded. Ofsted will publish the outcomes of their discussions with leaders in a short letter so that parents can understand what steps are being taken to help children back into full-time education.

3.8 Ofsted visits will be made to nurseries and childminders to monitor progress and regulatory standards, particularly looking at those where they have concerns, but including a wider sample. Ofsted will also be visiting local authorities and children's

social care providers, including children's homes, to check on the experience and progress of children needing protection or care. These visits will not be graded.

3.9 During 'lockdown', Walsall had two HM inspectors of schools seconded to the Inclusion team to help with our Covid response in supporting schools.

4.0 In early October 2020, Ofsted made interim visits to two schools in Walsall to look at how they were getting children 'back up to speed' and to focus on their experiences during the initial Covid 19 lock down. These visits concentrated purely on the experiences during Covid and did not focus on work scrutiny or any other school documentation other than the single central record. The visit was a series of conversations, with the leaders focussed on safeguarding, attendance, curriculum and behaviour - with a particular emphasis on social, emotional and mental health - and how schools were meeting the needs of their staff and pupils. A brief non-judgemental letter will be sent as a follow up after the visit. Leaders from these schools reported these were positive experiences. The head teachers of these schools then shared their experiences of these ungraded visits as a learning opportunity during the weekly head teachers briefing hosted by the Local Authority.

5. Decide

The Committee may decide to note the current position.

The Committee may decide to request further information or assurance in respect of the report.

6. Respond

Any recommendations made by the Committee will be assessed against the Inclusion Strategy and our Schools Causing Concern process.

7. Review

The performance of schools in relation to Ofsted judgements is under constant review and monitoring by the Inclusion team within the Local Authority.

Author

Trudy Pyatt

Head of Inclusion

☎ 01922 655616

✉ Trudy.Pyatt@walsall.gov.uk

3 November 2020

Exclusions in schools

Ward(s): All

Portfolios: Councillor Chris Towe – Education & Skills

1. Aim

The Department for Education (DfE) and the United Kingdom Statistics Authority published a dataset on 13 August 2020 on permanent and fixed period exclusions in England for the 2018/19 academic year across state funded schools.

This report summarises the exclusions data on children and young people in Walsall during the 2018/19 academic year.

2. Recommendations

That the Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers the contents of this report and decides whether there should be further information or updates.

3. Report detail – know

3.1 A guide to the law:

Only the head teacher of a school can exclude a pupil and this must be on disciplinary grounds. A pupil may be excluded for one or more fixed periods (up to a maximum of 45 school days in a single academic year), or permanently.

A fixed period exclusion does not have to be for a continuous period and can also be for parts of the school day. For example, if a pupil's behaviour at lunchtime is disruptive, they may be excluded from the school premises for the duration of the lunchtime period.

The legal requirements relating to exclusion, such as the head teacher's duty to notify parents, apply in all cases. Lunchtime exclusions are counted as half a school day for statistical purposes and in determining whether a governing board meeting is triggered.

The law does not allow for extending a fixed-period exclusion or 'converting' a fixed-period exclusion into a permanent exclusion. In exceptional cases, usually where further evidence has come to light, a further fixed-period exclusion may be issued to begin immediately after the first period ends; or a permanent exclusion may be issued to begin immediately after the end of the fixed period.

The behaviour of a pupil outside school can be considered grounds for an exclusion.

The head teacher may withdraw an exclusion that has not been reviewed by the governing board.

The head teacher and governing board must comply with their statutory duties in relation to SEN when administering the exclusion process. This includes having regard to the SEND Code of Practice.

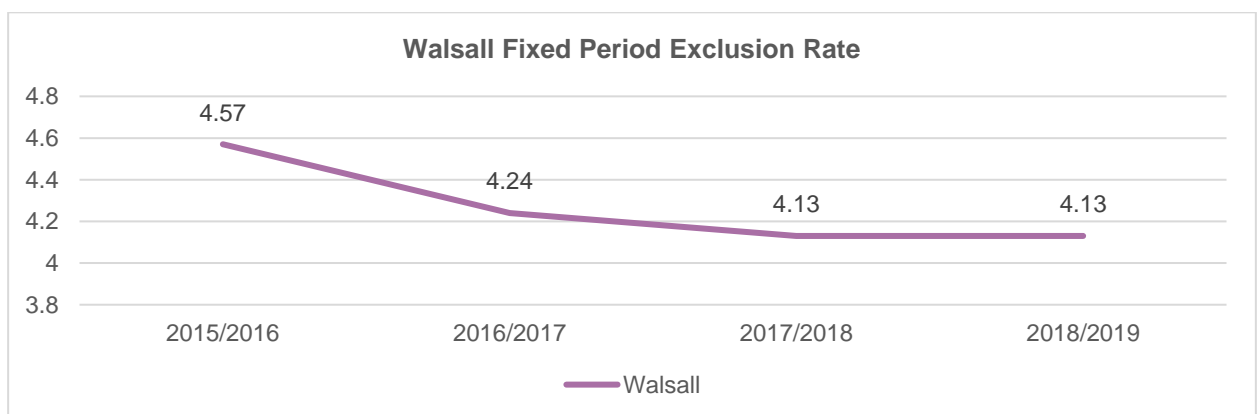
It is unlawful to exclude for a non-disciplinary reason. For example, it would be unlawful to exclude a pupil simply because they have additional needs or a disability that the school feels it is unable to meet, or for a reason such as: academic attainment/ability; the action of a pupil's parents; or the failure of a pupil to meet specific conditions before they are reinstated, such as to attend a reintegration meeting. However, a pupil who repeatedly disobeys their teachers' academic instructions could, be subject to exclusion.

'Informal' or 'unofficial' exclusions, such as sending a pupil home 'to cool off', are unlawful, regardless of whether they occur with the agreement of parents or carers. Any exclusion of a pupil, even for short periods of time, must be formally recorded. Maintained schools have the power to direct a pupil off-site for education to improve their behaviour. A pupil at any type of school can also transfer to another school as part of a 'managed move' where this occurs with the consent of the parties involved, including the parents and the admission authority of the school. However, the threat of exclusion must never be used to influence parents to remove their child from the school.

3.2 Fixed Period Exclusions:

Prevalence

The number of pupils in Walsall schools with a fixed period exclusion increased from 2073 in 2017/2018 to 2106 in 2018/2019 but due to the overall increase in pupil numbers in schools, remains at 4.13%. The proportion of pupils with a fixed period exclusion has also been decreasing since 2015/2016 (4.57%).

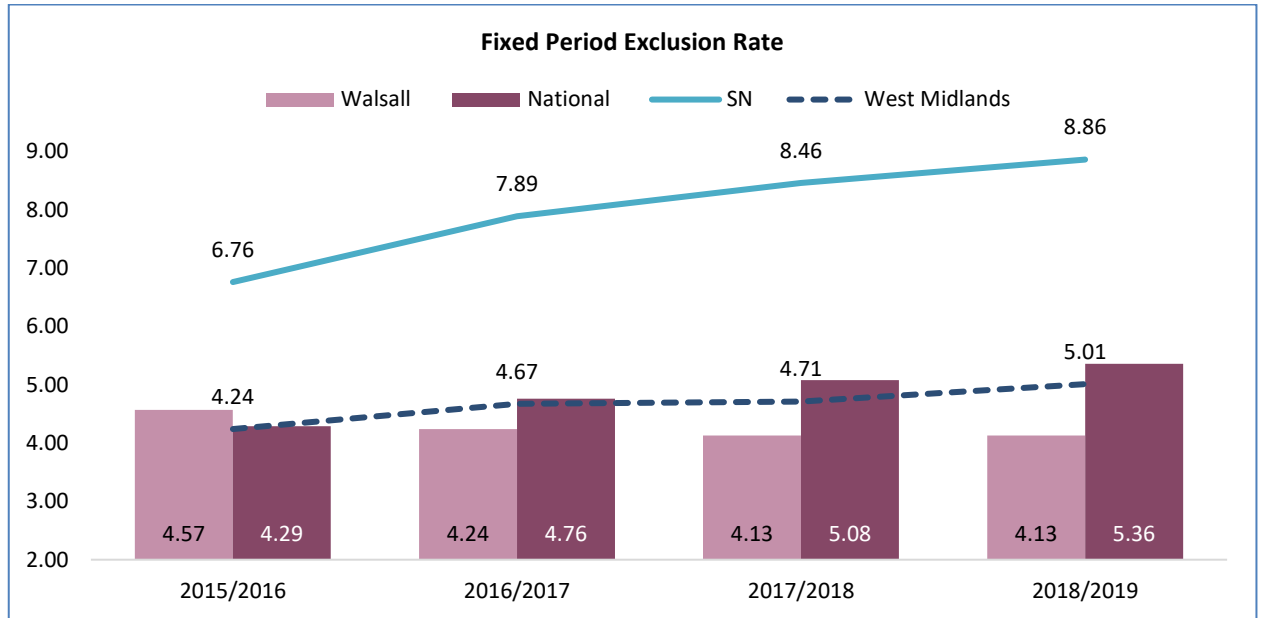


Comparing the percentage of pupils in Walsall schools with a fixed period exclusion with National, Statistical Neighbours and West Midlands local authorities, the fixed period exclusion rate in Walsall continued to fall, decreasing from 4.24% in 2016/2017 to 4.13% in 2017/2018 and remained at that for 2018/2019.

National continues to increase, widening the gap to Walsall from 0.52% above in 2016/2017 to 1.23% above in 2018/2019.

Similarly, statistical neighbours have also increased each year since 2015/2016 widening the gap to Walsall from 2.19% in 2015/2016 to 4.73% for 2018/2019.

West Midlands has also been increasing on an annual basis and since 2016/17 has been above Walsall.

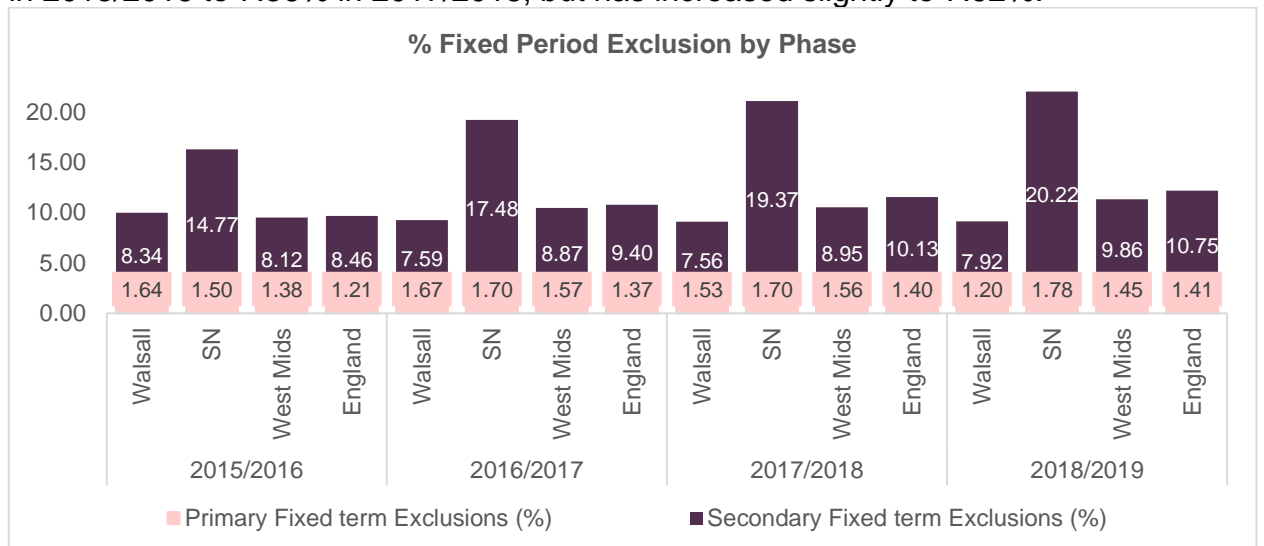


By Phase

The percentage of fixed period exclusions in primary and secondary schools in Walsall for 2018/2019 is below that of National, West Midlands and Statistical Neighbours.

Primary has been improving year on year and stands at 1.20%, from 1.64% in 2015/2016.

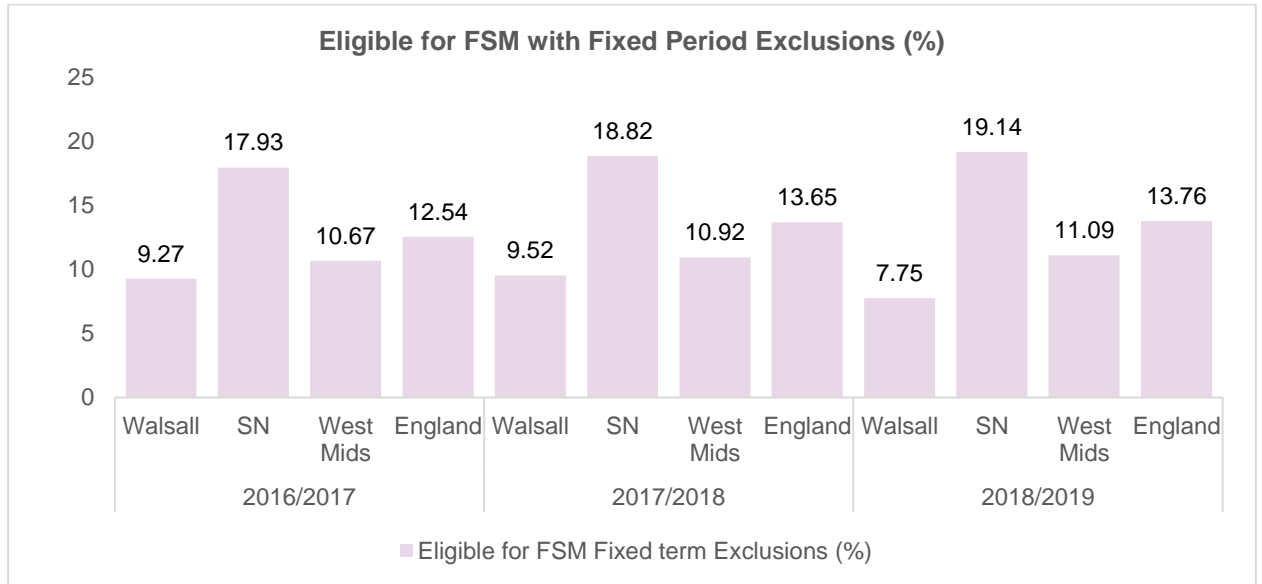
The percentage of fixed period exclusions for Secondary was improving from 8.34% in 2015/2016 to 7.56% in 2017/2018, but has increased slightly to 7.92%.



Characteristics

FSM

The percentage of pupils in Walsall eligible for FSM with fixed period exclusions has decreased from 9.27% in 2016/2017 to 7.75% in 2018/2019. Walsall is currently below National (13.76%), Statistical Neighbours (19.14%) and West Midlands (11.09%).

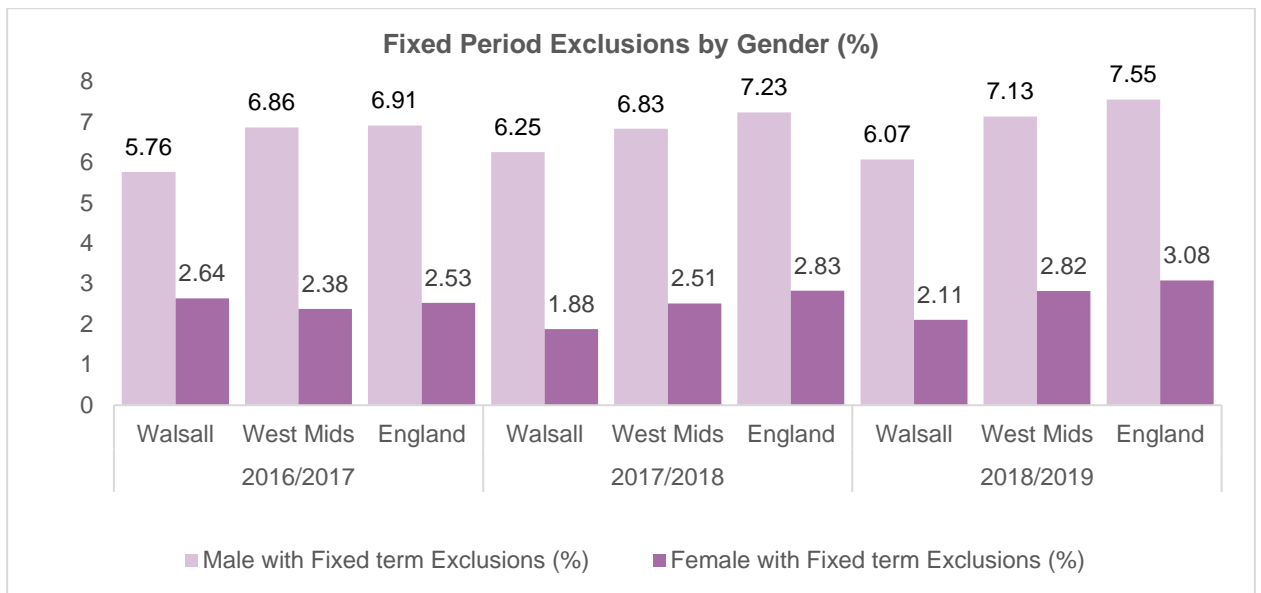


Gender

The percentage of pupils in Walsall with fixed period exclusions who are male is higher than for female but is lower than that of national and West Midlands.

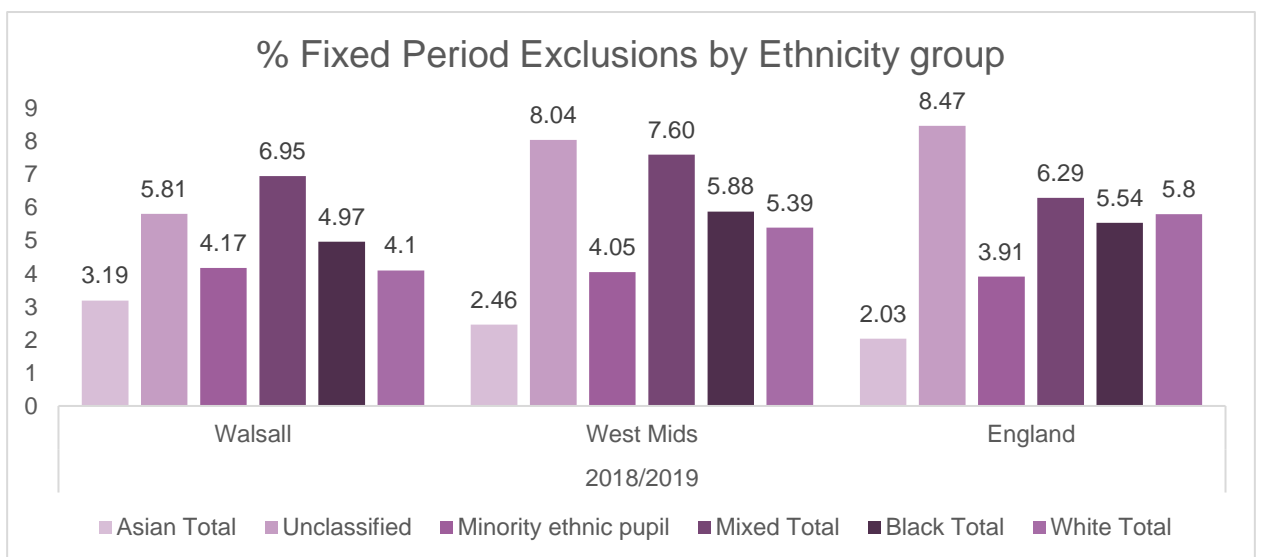
Since 2016/2017 the percentage of male pupils has increased from 5.76% to 6.07% in 2018/2019. Walsall is below national by 1.48% and West Midlands by 1.06%.

The percentage of female pupils in Walsall with fixed period exclusions has declined from 2016/2017 at 2.64% to 2.11% in 2018/2019. Walsall is below national by 0.97% and West Midlands by 0.71%.



Ethnicity

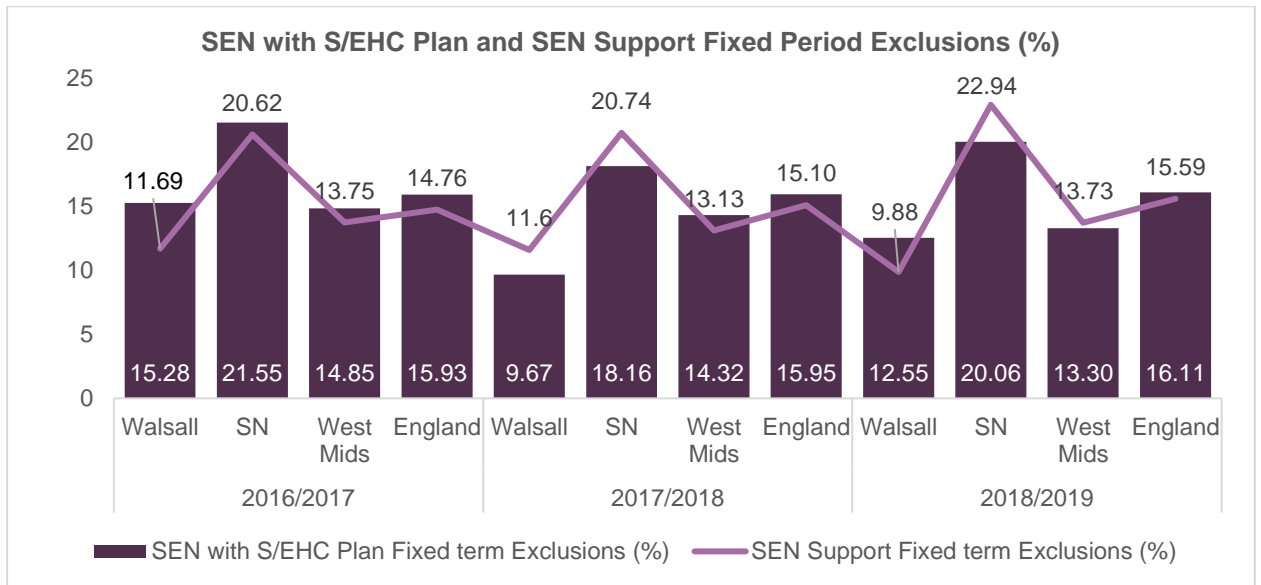
In Walsall the ethnicity group with the highest fixed period exclusions in 2018/2019 was Mixed with 6.95%, this is higher than National with 6.29% but lower than West Midlands with 7.60%.



SEN

The percentage of pupils in Walsall with SEN Support who had fixed period exclusions has decreased from 11.69% in 2016/2017 to 9.88% in 2018/2019. Walsall is currently below National (15.59%), Statistical Neighbours (22.94%) and West Midlands (13.73%).

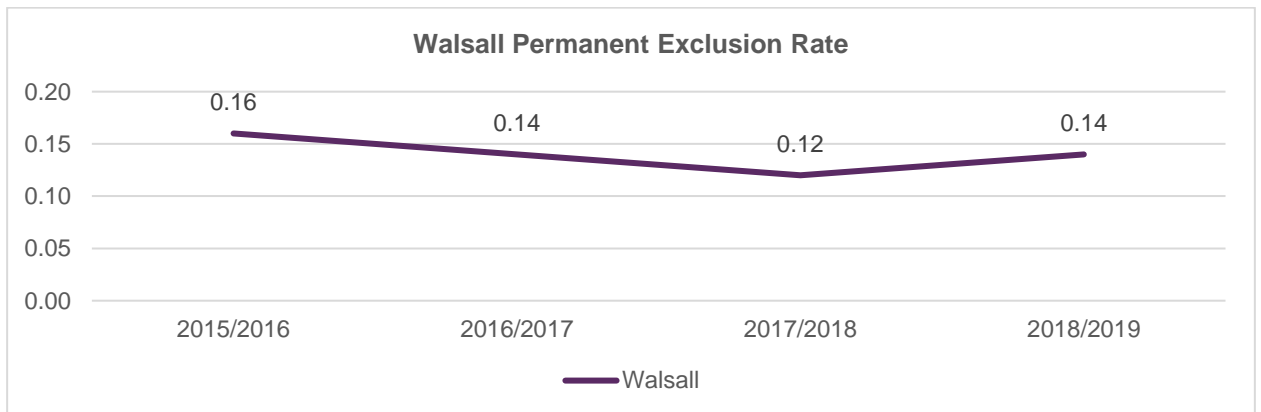
The percentage of pupils in Walsall with SEN S/EHC Plan who had fixed period exclusions has decreased from 15.28% in 2016/2017 to 12.55% in 2018/2019. Walsall is below National (16.11%), West Midlands (13.30%) and statistical neighbours (20.06%).



Permanent Exclusions

Prevalence

The number of pupils with a permanent exclusion in Walsall schools increased from 60 (0.12%) in 2017/18 to 71 (0.14%) in 2018/19. The proportion of permanent exclusions had been decreasing since 2015/2016 (0.16%).

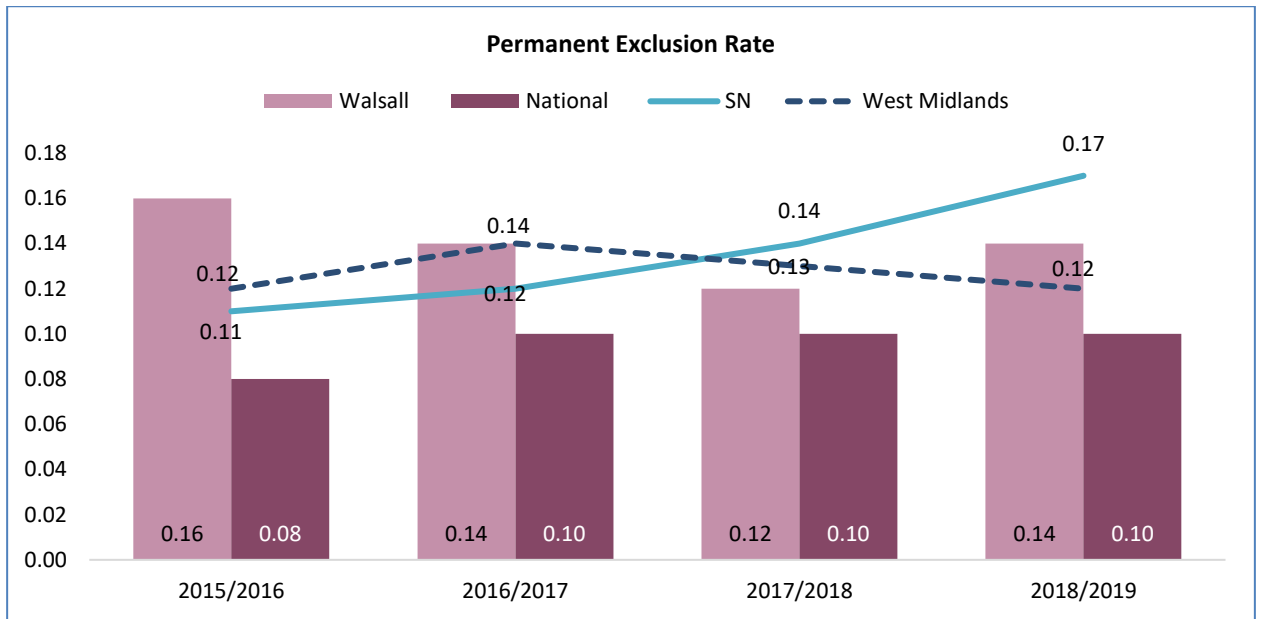


Comparing the percentage of pupils with a permanent exclusion in Walsall schools with national, statistical neighbours and other West Midlands' local authorities, the permanent exclusion rate in Walsall steadily decreased until 2017/2018 but has increased slightly in 2018/2019.

National has remained stable since 2016/17.

The Statistical Neighbour average has increased every year since 2015/16 and is now above Walsall.

West Midlands has always remained relatively in line with Walsall.

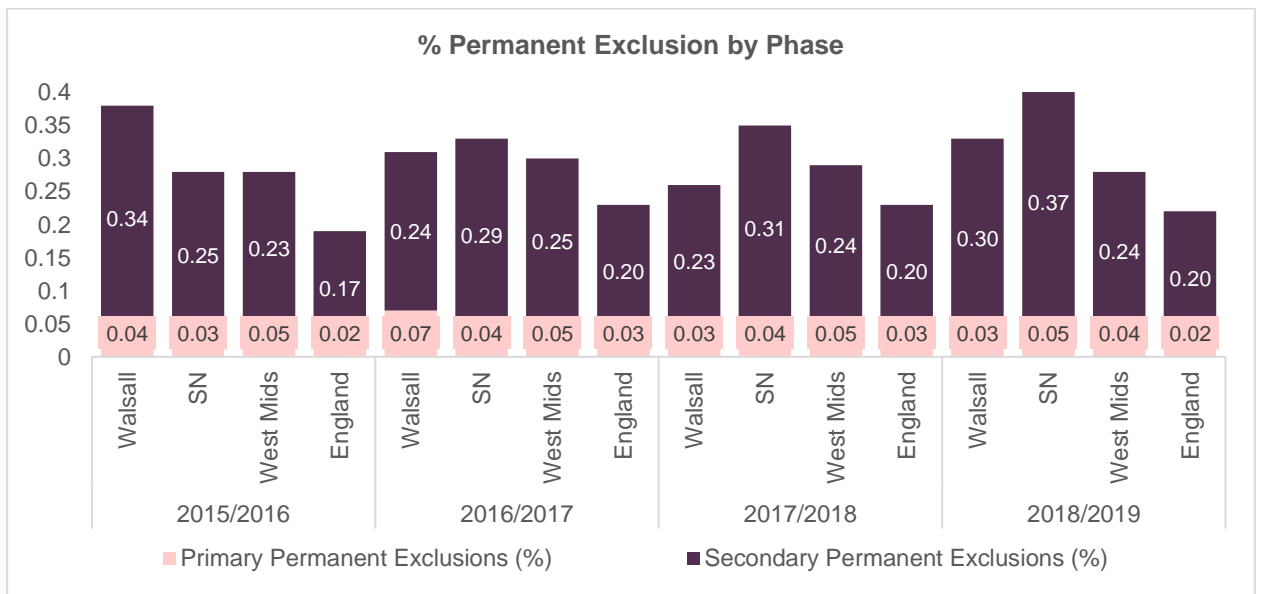


By Phase

Secondary schools have the highest number of permanent exclusions in Walsall - this is also the case for National, Statistical Neighbours and West Midlands local authorities.

In 2018/2019 permanent exclusions for primary were below that of Statistical Neighbours and West Midlands but above National by 0.01%. Primary has remained at 0.03% since 2017/2018.

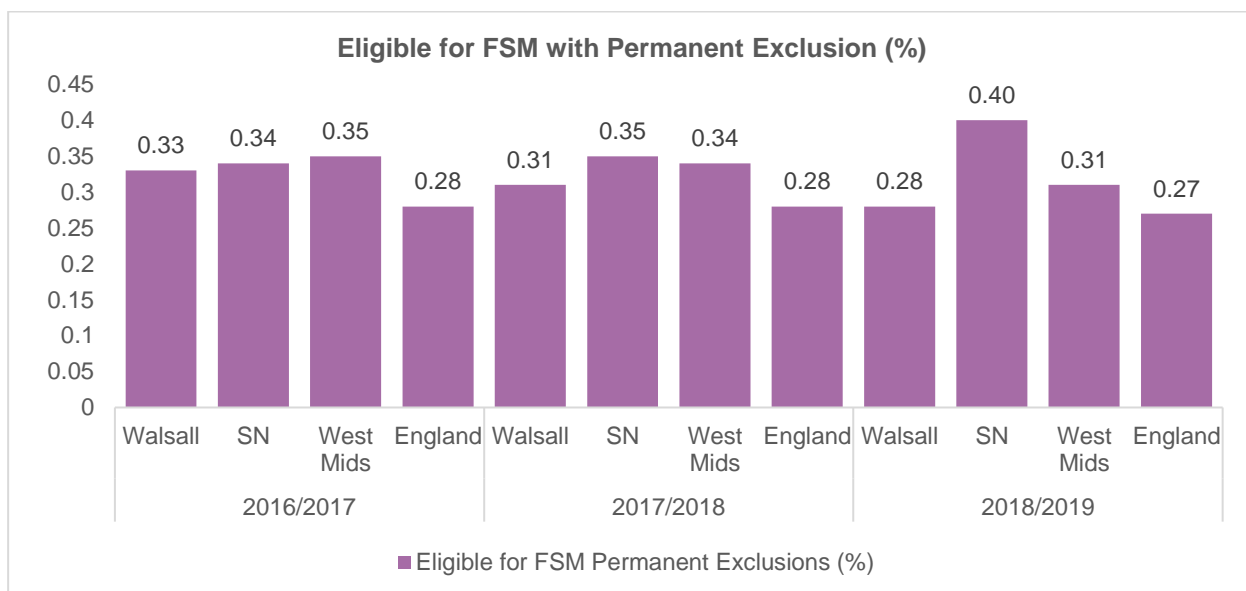
Secondary percentages in Walsall have generally been decreasing over the last few years and was at 0.30% for 2018/19. This is 0.10% above National, 0.06% above West Midlands, but below Statistical Neighbours by 0.07%.



Characteristics

FSM

The percentage of pupils in Walsall eligible for FSM with a permanent exclusion has been decreasing, from 0.33% in 2016/2017 to 0.28% in 2018/2019. Walsall is both below Statistical Neighbours (0.40%) and West Midlands (0.31%) and is closing the gap to National (0.27%) in 2018/2019.

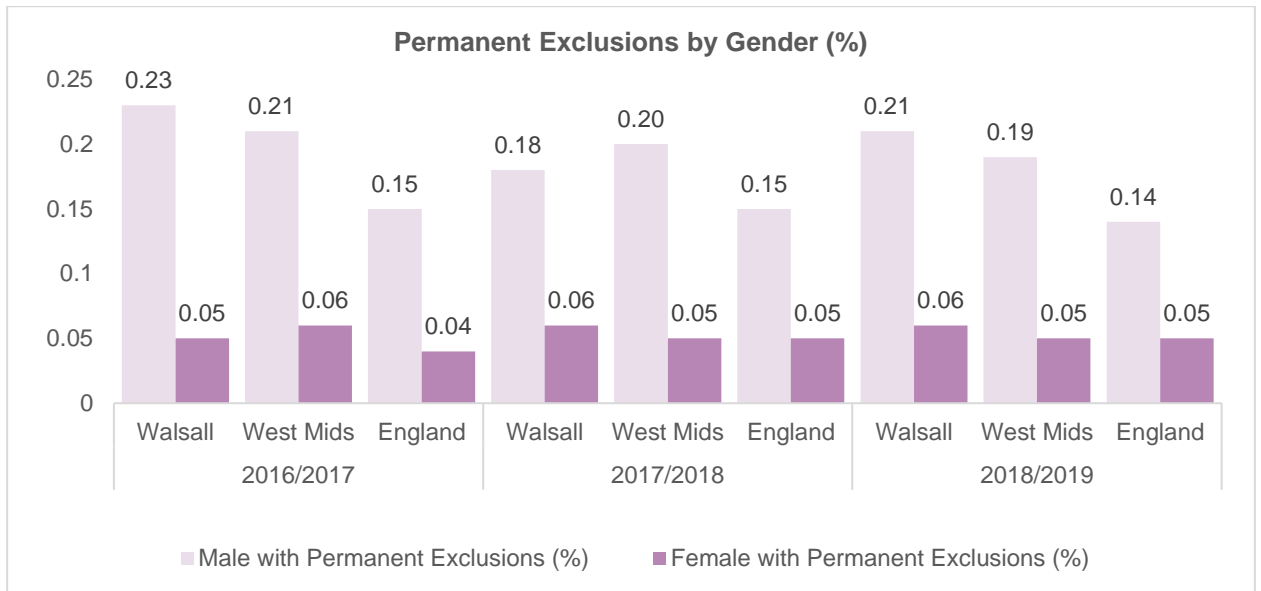


Gender

The percentage of male pupils in Walsall with a permanent exclusion is higher than for female and higher than National and West Midlands.

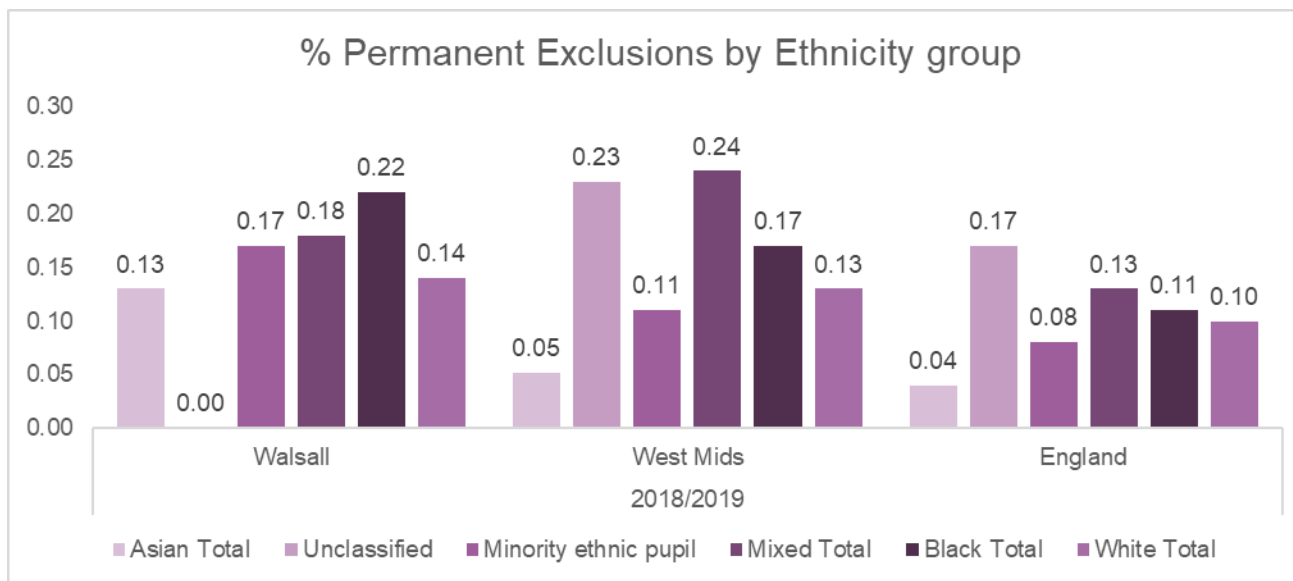
Since 2016/2017 the percentage of permanent exclusions for male pupils has improved from 0.23% to 0.21% in 2018/2019. Walsall is above national by 0.07% and West Midlands by 0.02%.

The percentage of female pupils in Walsall with a permanent exclusion has remained at 0.06% for the last two years and is currently 0.01% above both National and West Midlands who are at 0.05%



Ethnicity

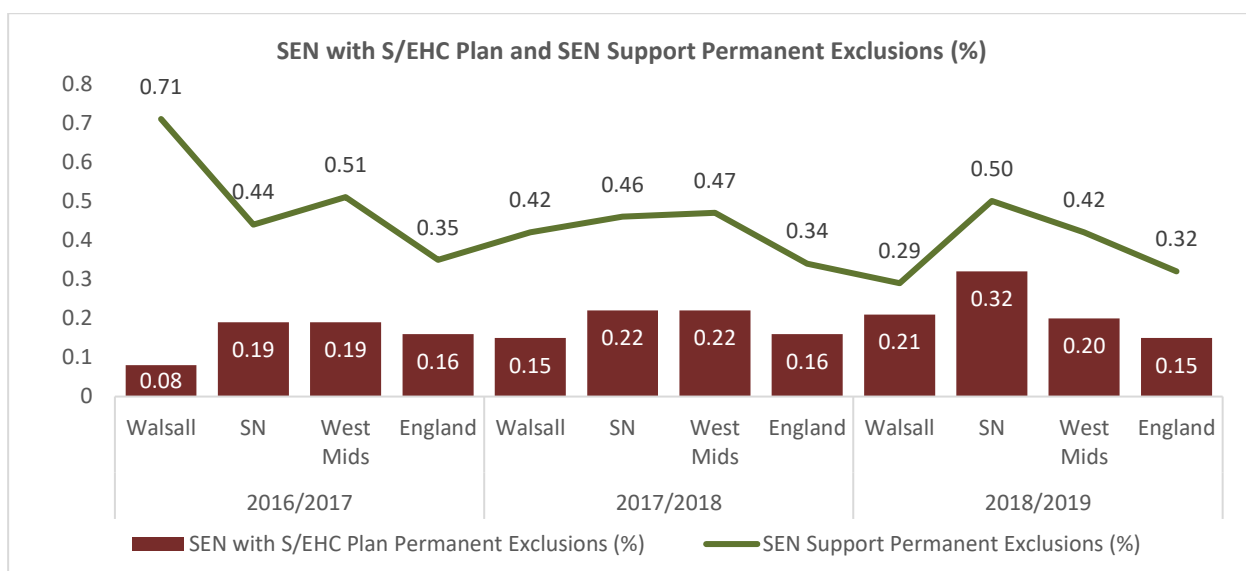
In Walsall the ethnicity group with the highest permanent exclusions in 2018/2019 was Black with 0.22%. Excluding Unclassified, the highest group in West Midlands and National was Mixed.



SEN

The percentage of pupils in Walsall with SEN Support who had a permanent exclusion has decreased from 0.71% in 2016/2017 to 0.29% in 2018/2019. Walsall is currently below National (0.32%), Statistical Neighbours (0.50%) and West Midlands (0.42%).

The percentage of pupils in Walsall with SEN S/EHC Plan who had a permanent exclusion has increased from 0.08% in 2016/2017 to 0.21% in 2018/2019. Walsall is above National (0.15%) and West Midlands (0.20%) but below Statistical Neighbours with 0.32%.



2019/20 Academic Year

This report covers the 2018/19 academic year. The statistics for the 2019/20 academic year are not due to be published until the summer of 2021 – they will likely be affected by the Covid-19 pandemic when all schools closed from 20 March to all pupils but for the most vulnerable children and children of critical workers.

During the pandemic, the local authority acted swiftly with regard to exclusions and the need for schools to retain ‘excluded’ pupils and those that were at the ‘cusp of exclusion’ on roll at their existing school.

2020/21 Academic Year

The Local Authority’s Placement Panel meets on a weekly basis to consider all permanent exclusions of Walsall resident children and young people both from Walsall school and schools in other LA areas.

As part of our engagement with schools to review existing and to help reduce future exclusions, officers from both Access and Inclusion and the Early Help Service are currently reviewing and updating Walsall’s existing exclusion policy and processes. This is to ensure there is clarity about:

- The processes that need to be followed by both schools and the Local Authority in terms of notifying all relevant parties about fixed period and permanent exclusions.
- the levels of support that should be provided by both the Local Authority and Walsall schools to children, young people and their parent and carers prior to, at the point of and post exclusion, dependent on whether the exclusion is fixed period or permanent.
- The level of support and, where appropriate, challenge that should be provided by the Local Authority to schools prior to, at the point of and, post exclusion, dependent on whether the exclusion is fixed period or permanent.

This review process will be completed ready for consultation, approval and implementation during the second part of the autumn 2020 term.

4. Financial information

There are no direct financial implications of the report but all pupils who are permanently excluded from schools go 'on roll' at the New Leaf Centre for assessment and provision of education. The funding for New Leaf comes from the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant through the high needs local funding formula.

5. *Reducing Inequalities*

The over-arching objective of the local authority is to continue to identify characteristics of good practice in addressing inequalities in school exclusions, with particular attention to the following factors: Free School Meals; gender; ethnicity; and Special Educational Needs (SEN).

Our aim is to work towards the position where the needs of all young people are addressed, and where schools no longer feel the need to exclude given the continuum of provision and support available to enable them to meet pupil needs.

6. Decide

Scrutiny may decide to note the current position.

The Committee may decide to request further information or assurance in respect of the progress against of schools exclusions.

7. Respond

Any recommendations made by the Committee will be assessed against the Access and Inclusion work programme and performance board.

8. Review

School exclusions are under constant monitoring and assessment via Placement Panel and Childrens Services performance board.

Background papers

None

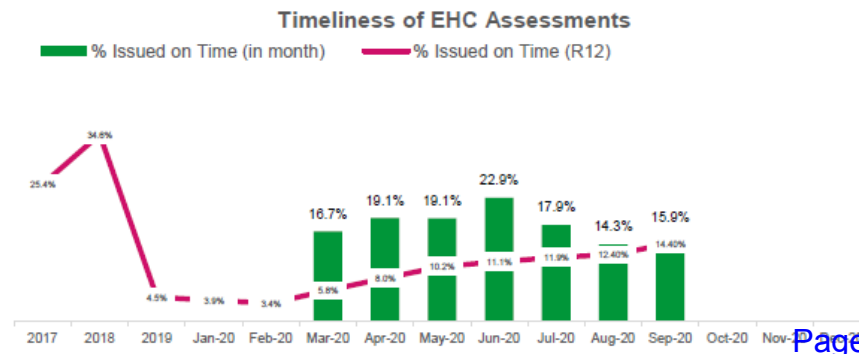
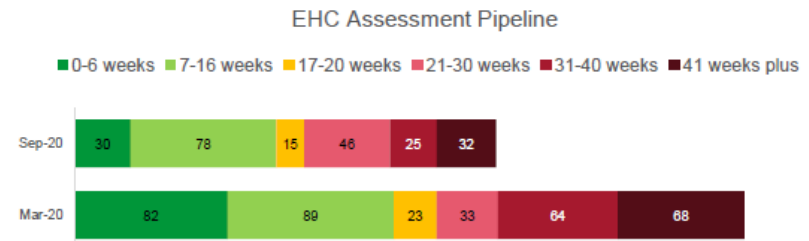
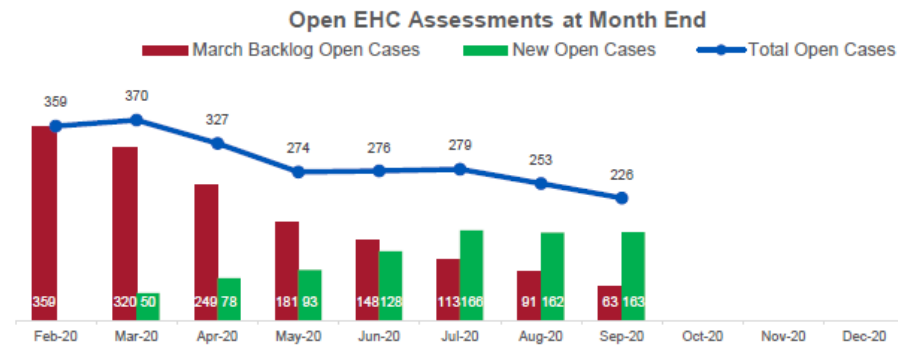
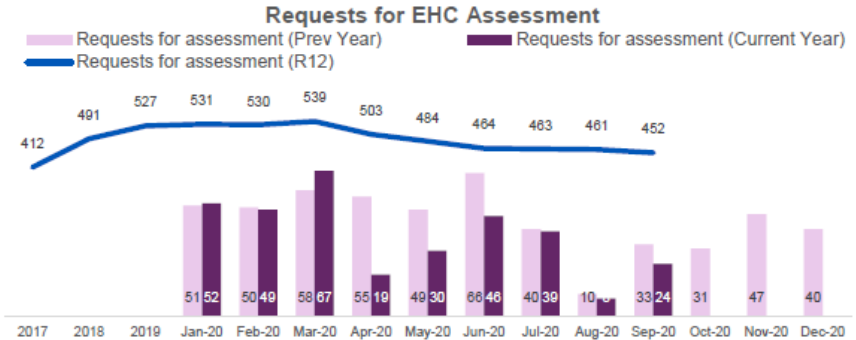
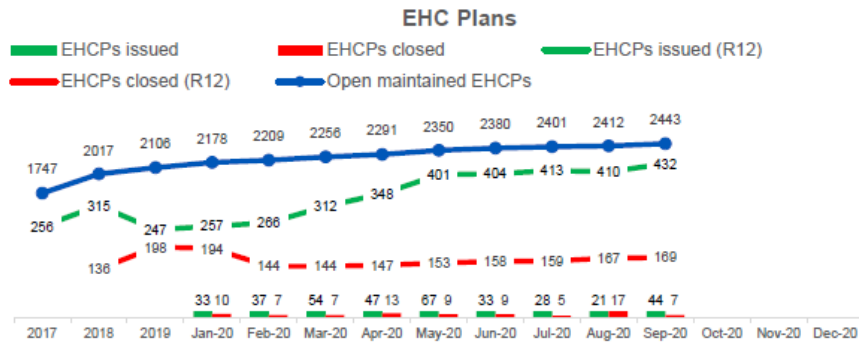
Author:

Rob Thomas

Head of Access

✉ rob.thomas@walsall.gov.uk

EHCP Timeliness Recovery Plan Dashboard



Assessments open at 1st March 2020 (BACKLOG)
359

- Currently Open **63**
0 Under 20 weeks
63 Over 20 weeks
- Closed without an EHCP being issued **31**
- EHCPs Issued **265**
42 (15.8%) issued on time

Assessments open since 1st March 2020 (NEW CASES)
237

- Currently Open **163**
123 under 20 weeks
40 Over 20 weeks
- Closed without an EHCP being issued **42**
- EHCPs Issued **32**
15 (46.9%) issued on time

3 November 2020

Work programme 2020/21

Ward(s) All

Portfolios: Councillor Chris Towe – Education and Skills

Report:

At its meeting on 10 September 2020, the Committee considered and approved the work programme for 2020/21, which is appended to this report.

However, the Committee did not consider whether a working group or groups should be established to carry out any investigations during the municipal year. Therefore, a number of suggested topics are offered for consideration:

- Covid response from Schools, the Local Authority and partners and identification of future impact
- Review of our vulnerable Looked After Children, including our virtual school offer and support to parents/carers, etc.
- Review of co-production and engagement work with parents and carers of children with SEND
- Review of parking in streets near to schools in Walsall due to irresponsible parking by parents who park across driveways, do not observe social distancing and do not wear face coverings. [This topic has been suggested by Councillor Ian Shires, and it could be undertaken jointly with Members from the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – to investigate the full extent of this problem across Walsall, to look for good practice elsewhere.]


In view of the limited number of meetings of Committees being held during the current municipal year, Members may also wish to consider whether the establishment of working group(s) might be more effective if carried out during the 2021/22 municipal year.


Recommendation:

That the Committee considers whether it wishes to establish a working group or working groups during the 2020/21 municipal year.

Contact Officer:

Dr Paul Fantom
Democratic Services Officer

 01922 653484

 paul.fantom@walsall.gov.uk

Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Work programme 2020/21

Priority Areas	10 September	3 November	5 January	11 March
Access and Inclusion Working Group report	X			
Update on SEND Local Area Improvement Plan and EHCPs	X			
COVID Support for Schools	X			
Work Programme 2020-21	X	X	X	X
Exclusions in schools		X		
Ofsted and Schools – Initial visits feedback and new inspection regime		X		
Update on the Jane Lane School		X		
Six monthly financial update 2019/20		X		
Draft revenue budget		X		
SEND Written Statement of Action & EHCPs			X	
Children Missing Education and Electively Home Educated			X	
Inclusion Strategy			X	
Pupil placed planning and capital strategy				X
SEND Strategy				X
Walsall Right for Children Update				X



Walsall Council

FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

**Council House,
Lichfield Street,
Walsall, WS1 1TW**
www.walsall.gov.uk

5 October 2020

FORWARD PLAN

The forward plan sets out decisions that are termed as “key decisions” at least 28 calendar days before they are due to be taken by the Executive (Cabinet). Also included on the plan are other decisions to be taken by the Cabinet (“non-key decisions”). Preparation of the forward plan helps the Council to programme its work. The purpose of the forward plan is to give plenty of notice and an opportunity for consultation on the issues to be discussed. The plan is updated each month with the period of the plan being rolled forward by one month and republished. Copies of the plan can be obtained from Democratic Services, Walsall MBC, Council House, Walsall, WS1 1TW helen.owen@walsall.gov.uk and can also be accessed from the Council’s website at www.walsall.gov.uk. The Cabinet is allowed to make urgent decisions which do not appear in the forward plan, however, a notice will be included on the agenda for the relevant Cabinet meeting which explains the reasons why.

Please note that the decision dates are indicative and are subject to change. Please contact the above addressee if you wish to check the date for a particular item.

Cabinet responsibilities are as follows

- Leader of the Council – Councillor Bird
- Deputy Leader, Regeneration – Councillor Andrew
- Deputy Leader, Resilient Communities – Councillor Perry
- Adult social care – Councillor Martin
- Children’s – Councillor Wilson
- Clean and green – Councillor Butler
- Education and skills – Councillor Towe
- Health and wellbeing – Councillor Craddock
- Personnel and business support – Councillor Chattha

The Cabinet agenda and reports are available for inspection by the public 7 days prior to the meeting of the Cabinet on the Council’s website. Background papers are listed on each report submitted to the Cabinet and members of the public are entitled to see these documents unless they are confidential. The report also contains the name and telephone number of a contact officer. These details can also be found in the forward plan.

Meetings of the Cabinet are open to the public. Occasionally there are items included on the agenda which are confidential and for those items the public will be asked to leave the meeting. The forward plan will show where this is intended and the reason why the reports are confidential. Enquiries regarding these reasons should be directed to Democratic Services (helen.owen@walsall.gov.uk).

“Key decisions” are those decisions which have a significant effect within the community or which involve considerable expenditure or savings. With regard to key decisions the Council’s Constitution states:

- (1) A key decision is:
 - (i) any decision in relation to an executive function which results in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant, having regard to the Council’s budget for the service or function to which the decision relates or
 - (ii) any decision that is likely to have significant impact on two or more wards within the borough.
- (2) The threshold for “significant” expenditure/savings is £250,000.
- (3) A decision taker may only make a key decision in accordance with the requirements of the Executive Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution.

Dates of meetings

2020 28 October
9 December

2021 10 February
17 March
21 April

FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

NOVEMBER 2020 TO FEBRUARY 2021 (5.10.20)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Reference No./ Date first entered in Plan	Decision to be considered (to provide adequate details for those both in and outside the Council)	Decision maker	Background papers (if any) and Contact Officer	Main consultees	Contact Member (All Members can be written to at Civic Centre, Walsall)	Date item to be considered
43/20 (7.9.20)	Corporate Financial Performance and Covid-19 update – To report the financial position and impact on Covid-19	Cabinet (Non key decision)	Vicky Buckley 01922 652326 vicky.buckley@walsall.gov.uk	Internal	Councillor Bird	9 December 2020
44/20 (7.9.20)	Draft Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2020/21 – 2023/24 – To provide an updated outline budget plan and options for further consultation, and update on consultation to date	Cabinet (Non key decision)	Vicky Buckley 01922 652326 vicky.buckley@walsall.gov.uk	Council tax payers, Business rate payers, voluntary and community organisations	Councillor Bird	9 December 2020
32/20 (3.8.20)	Treasury Management mid-year position statement: To note and forward to Council the mid-year position statement for treasury management activities 2020/21, including prudential and local indicators	Cabinet (Non key decision)	Richard Walley 07500 819796 richard.walley@walsall.gov.uk	Internal	Councillor Bird	9 December 2020
36/20 (7.9.20)	Corporate Plan delivery Quarter 2: To report performance monitoring information relating to the priorities and outcomes included in the Corporate Plan	Cabinet (Non key decision)	Helen Dudson helen.dudson@walsall.gov.uk	Internal	Councillor Bird	9 December 2020
33/20 (7.9.20)	Black Country Joint Committee Collaboration Agreement: To enter into the Supplementary Deed of Variation to the BCJC Collaboration Agreement	Cabinet (Key decision)	Kelly Valente 07768 387580 kelly.valente@walsall.gov.uk	Internal	Councillor Bird	9 December 2020
3/20 (6.1.20)	Strategic development at Moxley Road, Darlaston Private session: Report contains information relating to the	Cabinet	Joanne Nugent 01922 654752	Internal	Councillor Andrew	9 December 2020

	financial or business affairs of any particular person	(Key decision)	joanne.nugent@walsall.gov.uk Joel Maybury 01922 654748			
8/20 (3.2.20)	Black Country Transport Team Collaboration Agreement: To approve the agreement to facilitate the delivery of a strategic transportation function across the four Black Country local authorities	Cabinet (Non key decision)	Matt Crowton 01922 654358 matt.crowton@walsall.gov.uk	Internal	Councillor Andrew	9 December 2020
27/19 (8.7.9)	A34 Walsall to Birmingham SPRINT (Bus Rapid Transit) scheme – Phase 1: To approve the sprint scheme	Cabinet (Key decision)	Matt Crowton 01922 654358 matt.crowton@walsall.gov.uk	Internal	Councillor Andrew	9 December 2020
68/19 (2.12.19)	West Midlands Enhanced Partnership Scheme: To approve a plan to improve bus travel in the A34 Walsall to Birmingham corridor through delivery of a new SPRINT service.	Cabinet (Key decision)	Matt Crowton 01922 654358 matt.crowton@walsall.gov.uk	Internal	Councillor Andrew	9 December 2020
43/18 (8.10.18)	Lighting Invest to Save: To consider proposals for a major investment in the highway lighting infrastructure by replacing all existing lighting with energy efficient LED lighting	Cabinet (Key decision)	Paul Leighton 07831 120871 paul.leighton@walsall.gov.uk	Public, Walsall Public Lighting Ltd., industry companies, internal	Councillor Andrew	9 December 2020
30/20 (3.8.20)	Bloxwich and Walsall Town Deal Acceleration Programmes: To update Cabinet on the successful application and approve the necessary delegation to finalise and submit the Town Deal Investment Plans to the government on or before the deadline of 29 January 2021	Cabinet (Key decision)	Mark Lavender 07951 620333 mark.lavender@walsall.gov.uk	Internal	Councillor Andrew	9 December 2020
49/20 (5.10.20)	Council tax reduction or discount exemption penalties: To introduce financial penalties for failure/late notification of changes of circumstances that would affect a resident's entitlement	Cabinet (Non key)	Mark Fearn mark.fearn@walsall.gov.uk	Internal	Councillor Andrew	9 December 2020

35/20 (7.9.20)	Preparing for Adulthood policy: To approve a new policy to deliver timely and robust plans for young people preparing for adulthood	Cabinet (Key decision)	Jeanette Knapper jeanette/knapper@walsall.gov.uk	Internal, SEND Improvement Board, Health operational partners and CCG	Councillor Martin	9 December 2020
48/20 (5.10.20)	Access and Inclusion: Response to report and recommendations of Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet (Non key)	Sharon Kelly 01922 652895 sharon.kelly@walsall.gov.uk	Internal	Councillor Towe	9 December 2020
50/20 (5.10.20)	Public Health contracts: To approve extension of existing public health core contracts and commence consultation to reconfigure lifestyle services	Cabinet (Key decision)	Stephen Gunther stephen.gunther@walsall.gov.uk Adrian Roche adrian.roche@walsall.gov.uk	Internal	Councillor Craddock	9 December 2020
26/20 (3.8.20)	Information Governance Framework policy: To approve the framework policy which has been updated throughout the Covid-19 lockdown to include the changes required for mobile working alongside the Council's technology changes.	Cabinet (Key decision)	Paul Withers paul.withers@walsall.gov.uk	Internal	Councillor Chattha	9 December 2020
45/20 (7.9.20)	Corporate Financial Performance and Covid-19 update – To report the financial position based on 9 months to December 2020 and impact on Covid-19	Cabinet (Non key decision)	Vicky Buckley 01922 652326 vicky.buckley@walsall.gov.uk	Internal	Councillor Bird	10 February 2021
46/20 (7.9.20)	Corporate Budget Plan 2020/21 – 2023/24, and Treasury Management and investment Strategy 2021/2022: To approve the final budget and Council tax for approval by Council	Cabinet (Key decision)	Vicky Buckley 01922 652326 vicky.buckley@walsall.gov.uk	Council tax payers, Business rate payers, voluntary and community organisations	Councillor Bird	10 February 2021 25 February 2021
47/20 (7.9.20)	Corporate Plan delivery – Quarter 3 monitoring: To report performance monitoring information relating to the priorities and outcomes included in the Corporate Plan	Cabinet (Non key decision)	Helen Dudson helen.dudson@walsall.gov.uk	Internal	Councillor Bird	10 February 2021

51/20 (5.10.20)	High Needs Funding Formula: To approve changes to the formula to be used for the allocation of High Needs Dedicated Schools Grant funding for the 2021/22 academic year	Cabinet (Key decision)	Andy Crabtree Mohammed Irfan 01922 652330	Schools Forum	Councillor Towe	10 February 2020
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BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE
FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

Published up to February 2021 (for publication 05/10/2020)

Date first entered into the plan	Project Name	Key Decision to be considered (to provide adequate details for those both in and outside of the Council)	Background papers (if any) and Contact Officer	Main consultees	Date Item to be considered
06/07/2020	Birchley Island Site Assembly PRIVATE SESSION - Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act1972 (as amended)	Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with Sandwell Council to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Birchley Island Site Assembly project with delivery to commence in the 2020/21 financial year.	Papers TBC – Alison Knight alison.knight@sandwell.gov.uk	Sandwell Council	09/12/2020
07/09/2020	Black Country Enterprise Zone - Approval Historic Revenue costs PRIVATE SESSION - Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act1972 (as amended)	Approve that Dudley Council actual historic revenue costs are recovered in the year that they were incurred. Approve that Single Accountable Body (SAB) actual revenue costs are recovered in the year that they were incurred. Approve that historic revenue costs of Walsall Council and Wolverhampton Council are recovered over a 10-year period, from 2020/21 to 2029/30.	Papers TBC – Simon Neilson simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk	Walsall Council	09/12/2020
07/09/2020	Black Country Enterprise Zone - Approval Future Revenue costs PRIVATE SESSION - Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12(A)	Approve that each Local Authority may claim from 2020/21 to 2024/25 for development funding. Approve that the SAB may claim from 2020/21 to 2024/25 for programme management costs. Approve that the PMO may from 2020/21 to 2024/25 for programme management costs.	Papers TBC – Simon Neilson simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk	Walsall Council	09/12/2020

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE
FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

Published up to February 2021 (for publication 05/10/2020)

Date first entered into the plan	Project Name	Key Decision to be considered (to provide adequate details for those both in and outside of the Council)	Background papers (if any) and Contact Officer	Main consultees	Date Item to be considered
	of the Local Government Act1972 (as amended)	<p>Approve that from 2025/26 onwards each Local Authority, the SAB and the PMO (the “entities”) may claim a reduced maximum to the end of the relevant EZs to cover monitoring and compliance costs. This will end at 31 March 2038 for Walsall Council, Wolverhampton Council and Sandwell Council, and end at 31 March 2042 for Dudley Council, the SAB and the PMO.</p> <p>Approve that from 2021/22 to 2024/25, Wolverhampton Council can claim towards the Transport Director costs, on behalf of all Local Authorities.</p>			
07/09/2020	Supplemental Deed of Variation to the Black Country Joint Committee Collaboration Agreement	Approve the Supplemental Deed of Variation Relating to the Collaboration Agreement in Relation to the Black Country Executive Joint Committee City Deal and Growth Deal dated the 7 May 2014, and in doing so approve the Governance Principles: Enterprise Zones.	Papers TBC – Simon Neilson simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk	Walsall Council	09/12/2020
05/10/2020	Programme Management and Single Accountable Body Admin Costs Proposal Approval PRIVATE SESSION - Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12(A)	Approval of capital allocations from the identified Growth Deal over programming (formerly the Growing Places Fund) for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walsall Council to carry out its role as Accountable Body to the Growth Deal and other LEP programmes; •the Black Country Consortium for the Management and Administration functions of the Black Country Local Growth Deal, and; 	Papers TBC – Simon Neilson simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk	Walsall Council	09/12/2020

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE
FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

Published up to February 2021 (for publication 05/10/2020)

Date first entered into the plan	Project Name	Key Decision to be considered (to provide adequate details for those both in and outside of the Council)	Background papers (if any) and Contact Officer	Main consultees	Date Item to be considered
	of the Local Government Act1972 (as amended)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Walsall Council to cover the costs of the external legal and technical fees in support of managing the programme. <p>Endorse that the administrative costs of supporting effective programme delivery and ongoing monitoring of schemes continue and are funded through the Growth Deal over programming.</p>			
05/10/2020	Growth Hub – Peer Networks Programme	Approval for the Accountable Body (Walsall Council) to enter into a grant agreement with the Black Country Consortium Ltd to deliver the Growth Hub Peer Networks Programme.	Papers TBC – Simon Neilson simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk	Walsall Council	09/12/2020
05/10/2020	Accessing Growth – Springfield Interchange Change Request	Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council, to deliver the Local Growth Deal Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Accessing Growth Springfield Interchange project with delivery to continue in the 2020/21 financial year.	Papers TBC – Richard Lawrence Richard.Lawrence@wolverhampton.gov.uk	Wolverhampton City Council	09/12/2020